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The Brooklyn Horror

Dimensions of the Awful Calamity.

Most Fatal of the Kind Ever Recorded.

SEARCH FOR BODIES STILL GOING ON

NEW YORK, December 7.—The dimensions of the awful calamity which has befallen the city of Brooklyn in the destruction of its principal theater by fire, and consequent loss of life, have not yet been realized. Enough is known, however, to make it certain that the catastrophe ranks among

THE MOST FATAL OF THE KIND

ever recorded. According to the statements of all parties who profess to know anything as to the origin of the fire, it began on the stage. The business manager, Mr. Rogers, says that a piece of canvas, out of which trees, &c., are made, was broken from its fastenings, and hung from the flies immediately over one of the border lights near the center of the stage. The canvas had begun to smoulder, and the paint on it to crackle, and the carpenter was directed to ascend to one of the grooves and remove the dangerous canvas, but he could barely reach it with his hand, and, in trying to unfasten it, The rapid motion through the air of the half ignited and highly inflammable canvas caused it to burst into a flame, which rapidly spread to the adjoining material equally susceptible. All efforts to extinguish the flames were abortive and the carpenter had to retire to save his own life.

The scene in the gallery, at that alarm was raised, is described as something horrible even to contemplate. Up till noon to-day

THREE HUNDRED AND FIFTEEN BODIES HAD BEEN REMOVED.

Of these fifty-nine are identified, some by remnants of clothing remaining, others by watches, chains and such articles, but few by their features. The actors, Claude Burroughs and Harry S. Murdock, are among the identified. What are accepted as the bodies of the two actors are simply two black cinders. Around the trunk of one was a scored and scorched buckskin undershirt, and beside it was what was a piece of braid, apparently portions of stage dress.

This afternoon a number of men will be set to work clear away the wreck in the auditorium. Hitherto their labors have been chiefly confined to the space formerly occupied by the lobby and stage. It is feared that in the careful search to be made in the auditorium, the bodies of a good many men who

LEAPED IN THEIR FRENZY FROM THE GALLERIES

will be discovered. The police allow no persons to enter within the walls of the theater with the exception of the men engaged in the search for the dead. The small parts of the ceilings and floors of the theater yet standing are in an unsafe condition.

LIST OF BODIES IDENTIFIED.

The Brooklyn *Eagle* publishes the following list of the identified: Richard Curren, 126 Jay street; John Turner, Jay and Prospect streets; Charles Rome, Prince street; Isaac Lesser, 436 Atlantic avenue; James Cassidy, 150 Hamilton avenue; James E. Garvey, Hugh Oberner, Hanover street; August Aurbach, 34 Hudson avenue; Mrs. Ann Martin, Lawrence street; Mrs. Barry, Smith and Livingstone streets; Joseph Farrell, Meserole avenue; John Tracy, 285 Wickoff street; J. Russell, Hamilton, 159 Sackett street; Mrs. Joseph Rogers, East New York; Robert Jackson, Flatbush avenue; C. H. Hilton, Clinton avenue; Louis E. Beeker, 286 Grant street; Mary Muivany, Little Water street; Stephen C. Haine, 66 Prince street; John Magunes, Little Water street; Joseph Tracy, 242 Conover street; H. J. McAnally, 191 Prince street; A. Sietson, Wm. H. Barrett, 606 Vanderbilt avenue; Wm. Hartman, 300 Morey avenue; E. Geary, 104 President street; George Lofel, Fulton street; Nicholas Conroy, 253 Plymouth street; Samuel C. Davis, 445 Gates avenue; George Lutt, 464 Sackett street; George Honnipy, 175 Court street; George F. Freel, 100 Fleet Place; Thomas Weaver, 447 Hudson avenue; Michael Kaley, 18 Meeker avenue; E. D. Louis Hecht, 431 Pulaski street; Patrick Gallagher, 236 Plymouth street; Abraham Kurtz and Abraham Dietz, Jay and Johnson streets; John Moburn, 25 Centre street; J. J. Cullen, 45 Amity street; Matilda Ward, 18 North Oxford street; Henry M. Bunce, 196 Prince street; Samuel Calhoun, 138 North Portland avenue; S. Dempsey, 103 President street; Wm. A. Gray, 150 Cuyler street, E. D.; Jacob Lutzbrader, 374 Navy st; W. W. Burton, 436 Lafayette avenue; Horon Deitz, 394 Kent avenue; James Lemon, John S. Charles Otis, 94 Clinton street; John Grace, 87 Douglass street; Charles E. Gassel, 98 Livingston street; William Bryant, 370 Navy street; Mr. Kramer, Stagg street and Bushwick avenue; James Layden, Francis Meloff, 340 Hicks street; Claude Borroughs and Harry S. Murdock.

A Coroner's jury was impanelled this morning, and held a session in the engine station house adjoining the burned theater. They took no evidence, and at noon adjourned to meet at the Coroner's office on Saturday morning.

MR. PALMER'S STATEMENT.

A. M. Palmer, one of the lessees of the theater, gives the following statement of the number of persons in the theater on Tuesday evening: Four hundred and five were in the upper gallery; 300 persons in the dress circle; 250 persons in the parquette, twenty-one actors, twenty-two actresses, twenty supernumeraries, ten stage hands, twelve musicians. Total, 1,018, or, including the dressers and other subordinates, in all about 1,060 persons.

A FAULT IN CONSTRUCTION.

A fault in the construction of the burned building, and one to which there is reason to believe the dreadful loss of life in the gallery is in a large measure attributable, was the use of a painted cloth for the ceiling. The canvas caught easily and burned rapidly. Of course the flames followed it to the ventilator at the top, making the dome a funnel of fire right over the heads of the people in the gallery. It seems more than probable that the smoke and fire in the midst of which they were thus placed, destroyed the lives of many persons who might else have escaped, even by the inadequate stairway provided for them.

Fire Marshal Keady resumed his investigations this morning. Chief Bonner, an officer of the mounted squad, was examined. He was in the theater in citizen's clothes when the fire occurred; was up in the dress circle and saw the flames bursting from the scenery on the stage; he ran to the front to get the doors open, and the actors quieted the audience for a moment. He waited at the doors till the audience were all out, and then closed the doors to keep the draught out. People were then coming down from the gallery, but all at once they stopped coming down and he did not know what was the matter. He referred to the first gallery: "There were two separate stairways leading up there. As I got to the top of the first flight of stairs there was a lady who, in coming down, got her leg caught in the balusters. As large men fell over her, and others falling over him, made a heap which those in the rear could not pass. There were fully fifty or sixty persons packed in a heap at the foot of the second flight of stairs. The stairs were open all the way down from that point, and above that point the stairs were filled within a few steps from the top. At this time the smoke was very dense. It was not three minutes after the fire broke out; the curtain was lowered and took fire, and this had the effect of sending the flames up to the gallery. I remained at it for about three seconds, and then closed the door of the parquette. The persons who were piled up in the heap cried to me to help them, and I did what I could in the rear to fall back until I got a man and woman out. Seeing these two get out, they all rushed forward again and blocked up the passage. I tried to extricate the woman whose leg was caught in the railing, but she was held fast. An usher came up to assist me, and we made a small place among them. We took out three or four of some of them, but we got them all out. Then I went up in the dress circle. I found a woman there and took her out; there must have been other persons there, for I heard cries, but I could not see them, on account of the smoke. I know there must have been several other persons in the dress circle who were overtaken by the fire. I was then getting weak from the smoke, and I dropped to the floor to get fresh air. The smoke was black smoke, and had a very suffocating smell. I am an old fireman, and never experienced smoke so suffocating. I was not in the smoke a minute and a half, and yet could not breathe. The first and second galleries and even the stairs were at this time filled with suffocating smoke. No human being could live in that smoke two minutes. I heard a thumping noise as if some persons were jumping out of the windows. At that time it was utterly impossible to get up in the top gallery, and I was nearly suffocated when I got out. I know that the people were all taken from the dress circle stairs, but when I heard the cries inside, I called out, 'Where are you?' but I got no answer. Even when I got down on the floor I heard a thumping noise, as though they were jumping out of the upper gallery; if they had jumped from the gallery to the dress circle, the smoke was so dense I could not have seen them. There was no breaking of stairs while I was there. I am pretty sure all in the dress circle did not get out alive."

The evidence of this officer is the clearest description of the terrible struggle by the audience to escape from the burning building which has yet been given.

SCENES AT THE MORGUE.

There was even a larger crowd around the morgue this morning than yesterday. A surging mass of people occupied the sidewalk in front of the dead house, and stretched into the middle of the street, and men and boys clambered upon the fences and seats in the neighborhood. Yesterday people who gathered in the neighborhood of this building were quiet and orderly. To-day there was a spirit of levity perceptible. The fire was an event two days old. No permits for admission were demanded of those persons who could satisfy the officers that they had lost friends or relatives by the fire. They were allowed to enter from time to time, passing in the front door and through the room on the right hand, which contained about thirty bodies lying on the floor, most of them identified, and so through the smaller room at the further end of the building, back to the left hand room, in which some of the corpses were lying upon marble slabs and tables in the center. Upon such bits of clothing as remain upon their bodies numbers written hastily with lead pencils on bits of paper have been pinned, and when a body has been recognized, the name and address are added to the number, then on receipt of the Coroner's permission the corpse is placed in a plain deal coffin and driven to the address. There are very few identifications, however; it is impossible that there can be many, as the features are for the most part unrecognizable. Trinkets and such things were many of them lost in the crowd, and clothing has been either all destroyed or burned into mere rags.

At the Adams street morgue, formerly known as the Old Fulton Market,

THE SCENE WAS HORRIBLE IN THE EXTREME.

On the floor lay a large number of charred bodies, but in many instances it was impossible to tell whether they had formerly been male or female, human or animal. In some cases the mass was only about a handful of charred bones and flesh, without a remnant of clothing or other property that could possibly lead to identification. In other cases all the clothing was either torn from or burned off, leaving but charred and blackened remains—bodies they cannot be called. "My God," said one poor woman, as she gazed on the charred mass of bones, "that may be my boy, but who can prove it?" Among bodies not so badly burned was one of a man, which was evidently leaped from the gallery, as his leg was broken short off above the ankle.

The remains of Jos. Terhune, dentist, who resided at Portland avenue and Fulton street, were recognized by the initials on his shirt collar. It was the only article of wearing apparel by which could be distinguished.

A REPORT OF

A MOST DISTRESSING CASE

has been made by Captain Crafts, of the Second precinct. Mrs. Smith, a widow, and her daughter, Mrs. Simpson, left their residence, 141 Sands street, on Tuesday evening, to attend the theater. The only other occupants of the house were a servant girl and an orphan child, whom Mrs. Simpson had adopted. Neither of the ladies have returned to their home, and having no friends in the city, no effort has been made to identify their remains. The husband of Mrs. Simpson was expected home from a long voyage at the close of the week.

The undertakers were constantly driving up to the morgue all morning with wagons and permits for the removal of identified remains, and the police had great difficulty in making a passageway for them through the solidly packed crowd which filled up the street in front of the building. Hundreds of people have visited the station house to-day inquiring after absent friends, and the pitiful scenes of yesterday were re-enacted with tenfold force.

Two hundred and ninety-seven bodies have been deposited in the morgue and the temporary one on Adams street, a wagon load containing ten bodies was on its way to the morgue late this P. M. to add to all. This mortality will probably reach 350 persons.

The Aldermanic Committee on Burials report that at eleven o'clock to-day 183 bodies were at the Adams street market morgue, and ninety-six at the city morgue. Mr. Sheridan Shook was at the police station to-day. He had little to say. He was attentively watched by the terrible affair. A. M. Palmer is still ill from constant attendance in Brooklyn since the disaster, but Mr. Locke Rogers, acting stage manager of the theater, and representing Shook & Palmer, is the business manager in charge. He is worried and anxious to relieve any case of immediate suffering consequent upon the conflagration. Later Treasurer Gouge expressed the same sentiment of commiseration, and his purpose to assist the unfortunate in any manner possible. Mr. Shook has ordered the Union Square Theater, New York, closed until after the funeral of the victims of this awful calamity.

A SERIOUS MISTAKE BY THE POLICE.

There was a report in circulation this morning which reflected seriously upon the police of the First precinct. It is said that a number of persons got down in the basement of the building at the time of the fire, and were making their way out through the grating, when the police shut down the grating and ordered them to go out by the other way.

A meeting was held to-day of the joint board of Aldermen and Supervisors, to make arrangements for the

PUBLIC MUSICAL OBSEQUIES OF THE BODIES OF VICTIMS

of the calamity who have not been identified. It was reported by a special committee that a plot for the burial of none hundred or more bodies had been offered by the directors of Greenwood Cemetery, and the offer was accepted. A benefit performance at Park Theater and Hooley's Opera House offered their services on behalf of the sufferers.

MEMORIAL SERVICES.

The Academy of Music will be used for memorial services on Sunday, and ministers from different churches will be present, among them Bishop Littlejohn, Bishop Loughlin, Rev. Dr. Cuyler, Rev. Dr. Scudder, Talmage, Dr. Storrs, Rev. A. S. Wash, Rev. Dr. Steimle, Rev. H. R. Nye, Rabbi Brandestein and many others. The memorial services will take place on Sunday at two P. M.

Members of the Thirteenth Regiment have taken the part of the police at the morgue, theater and other places, the latter being exhausted.

FURTHER TESTIMONY.

At the investigation by the Fire Marshal this afternoon, Samuel W. Hastings, ticket receiver; George Heeney, property man, and Charles Straub, one of the parties who made their escape from the gallery, were all examined and gave their versions of the calamity. Thomas R. Jackson, architect of the theater, testified to the structure of building. He was questioned as to the Brooklyn Theater was as well provided with means of exit as any theater he knew of. When the theater was erected particular attention was paid to gas jets and border lights.

RELIEF FOR THE SUFFERERS.

A meeting of actors and others was held this afternoon at the Park Theater, to take action in regard to the calamity. A committee was appointed to arrange plays to be performed in the different theaters for the benefit of the sufferers. A committee of citizens was also appointed to relieve the immediate wants of those who suffered by the accident. Over $1,500 was subscribed at the meeting towards a relief fund. A number of theaters were tendered for the performances. Resolutions of regret at the loss of the two actors, Messrs. Murdock and Burroughs, and confidence with their families were adopted. City Hall, Brooklyn, was ordered by the Aldermen to be draped in mourning out of respect to the dead.

The New York Board of Alderman this afternoon passed resolutions deploring the calamity and sympathizing with unfortunate families of the sufferers. Mayor Wickham was requested by them to call upon the citizens for contributions to alleviate the distress which would surely follow this visitation.

NEW YORK, December 8.—Brooklyn is literally

WALKING IN THE VALLEY OF THE SHADOW OF DEATH.

The funerals of such of the victims of the theater disaster as have been identified are taking place, and through the streets in every part of the city hearses are moving, bearing the remains to the cemeteries.

About thirty-five men are at work on the ruins, and it is hoped that the

FULL EXTENT OF THE CALAMITY

will be definitely ascertained within the next twenty-four hours. They have not yet succeeded in uncovering the dress circle, and it is, therefore, not ascertain how many, if any, of the spectators in it perished. One more body was found this morning in the parquette, and also two or three fragments of flesh, which may possibly belong either to the bodies which have already been removed, or to others which have been entirely consumed. The body was so charred and disfigured as to be unrecognizable. It was evidently that of a woman, as a piece of hoopskirt adhered to the remains.

ARTICLES FOUND ON THE DEAD.

The articles taken from the dead have been deposited for identification, and are guarded by a number of police officers.

Since eleven o'clock, when the articles were arranged for identification, they have been examined by a large number of persons.

The remains of Mr. Murdock and his brother actor, Claude Burroughs, are in charge of the undertaker.

A meeting of the surviving members of the Brooklyn Theater and Union Square companies, will be held at the Union Square Theater this evening to make arrangements for the funeral of their late associates.

CLAIMING BODIES ON ACCOUNT OF VALUABLES FOUND.

Several bodies were claimed, both at the morgue and the market to-day. One body, on which was a gold watch, was claimed by no less than seven persons. In the temporary morgue there is quite a pile of arms, legs and fragments of flesh.

HABILIMENTS OF MOURNING.

The Central Police office and City Hall are heavily draped, and the large business establishments are putting on the habiliments of mourning. A number of stores are closed, and on the doors is the following notice: "Closed in consequence of death in the family."

THEATRICAL PROFESSION MOVING FOR THE RELIEF OF THE SUFFERERS.

At a meeting of actors and actresses yesterday, to arrange for a benefit for the Brooklyn Theater sufferers, every regular theater and minstrel troupe in New York and Brooklyn was represented, and, in addition, a large number of theatrical people were represented individually. A resolution was adopted that every theatrical manager in the country be asked to contribute the proceeds of one performance toward the relief of the sufferers.

THE FIRE MARSHAL'S INVESTIGATION—FURTHER TESTIMONY.

At the investigation which Fire Marshal Keady is making, John Lyons to-day testified that he was in the top gallery, and first saw the fire through a crack in the scene on the left hand side of the stage. "It was quite a large flame; when I heard the cry of fire, my friend and myself ran down stairs, and I called him back again and we sat down, but only for a minute. I dropped over the banisters at the head of the stairs, and when I got up a policeman tried to push me back. Several others jumped on top of me. The stairs were crowded then, and the police tried to keep the crowd back. There was also a crowd down ahead of me, but I met with no further obstacle; not half of the people had got out of the gallery at the time I left; there was nothing to indicate the breaking of the stairs when I came down. People were panic-stricken and were falling on each other. There were very few women."

Marshal T. Bryon, who was in the parquette, testified: "I do not think there were six persons behind me when I got out; I am sure when I got out there was not a man or woman in the parquette."

The following testimony was taken by Fire Marshal Keady to-day: John Boyle was in the gallery at the time of the fire, and said when the alarm was given all made a rush, but from the gallery was out before he did. First saw the fire in the flies over the stage, and the cry of fire was raised behind. Murdock came to the foot lights and requested all to be seated; saw others set down again, and saw flakes of fire falling on the stage; thought it was in the play; got up and went to the door; saw some one fell, and then twenty-five or thirty fell over him. A rush of fire and smoke then came through like a blast of wind. John Turner, an old fireman, said, "Look out for yourself. The place is all ablaze." The people were panic-stricken and cried out that the stairs were falling behind them. They begged some one "for God's sake to let them out." Did not see the stairs fail; thought not more than seventy-five people got out. There were perhaps fifty women in the gallery. Turner was buried to-day.

Charles Adams was in the dress circle; first saw the fire in the scenery on the left hand corner of the stage through the audience. It was then small. The cry of fire was given, and all started on a rush. The actors told the people to keep quiet, and they did so. J. Studley then said "Go, and go quietly." They then rushed out and I got knocked down, but got up again and took out a lady who was with me. Saw several ladies locked down by the parquette and others in the vestibule. There was even a flash of fire to the fresco from the dress circle to the front entrance; the people were all in a panic; women were knocked down and the crowd rushed over them. I think if the audience had been requested to leave quietly when the fire first broke out, they could have been saved. There might have been trouble in the gallery. I dress circle. The place was very hot when I left it. I didn't hear any stairs break, but heard the fire crackling on the stage.

E. H. Sothern testified that he saw men with poles trying to pull the fire down. The sparks were then falling. The actors tried to quiet the audience, and some sat down. Mrs. Conway, the manager, and all rushed for the door. There was a mass of people at the door when I got to the door. In going down the first flight all were pushing, but on their feet; the tights were up; at the first landing near the box office the first flight broke and I fell and fell on top of him. Then it seemed that all who followed fell on that heap. The place was dark, and volumes of smoke came up. I was on my face, but was familiar with the stairs, and got out and went down. There was no balustrade on hand rail. I looked back from the street, but saw no one coming. I don't think any one got down from the gallery after me; they were all piled up in a heap on the first landing from the street to the box office. I went around to the stage door and it was shut and on fire; then came back to the front and the police charged the door with their clubs and the want of a better means of exit prevented the people from getting out. I was about a minute extricating myself from the crowd; the act or landing on the stairs caused people to fall, and there were so many they couldn't get up again. I dont thing that one hundred people got out of the one hundred or five hundred in the gallery got out.

Charles Holloway was in the gallery at the time of the fire, and was about to jump down into the dress circle when he saw some ladies below, and was afraid of hurting them. He then drew back and ran to the door leading to the stairs, encountered the crowd, jumped on the heads of people, and was at the ticket office, when the light went out. He then fell, but got up again. Upon going a little further he found a pile of women there on the stairs in the dark; he thinks about fifty got out; those that he got over on the stairs seemed to be dead. There were two separate heaps of people on the stairs. The fire reached him before he got out, and burned his ear. He was nearly suffocated by the thick smoke.

RECENT ALARMS OF FIRE IN THE THEATER.

William H. Smith, an actor employed by Mrs. Conway, testified that he was at the parquette door when the fire broke out; was on the stage about three weeks ago when the "Long Strike" was played, at which time the rubber connection of the border lights in the third entrance caught fire, but the excitement did not pass beyond the few people who stood around, and the gas was shut off at once. Witness was in the gallery on the second night John E. Owens played in "Our Boys;" that night an alarm of fire occurred. There was a movement of the people, when Murdock told them to sit down; heard that this fire was in a curtain in a box. He thought at the time of the fire there were axes on the stages, labelled "not to be used except in case of a fire." He knew that the fire door from the parquette to Flood's alley was open at the time of the fire, and a number of people went out there.

AT THE MORGUE.

Eighty bodies are still in the morgue, and eighty-three in the Adams street market. Parts of some of the corpses have crumbled, and look like heaps of offal. The public mind is poured over them hourly by order of the Board of Health. The chloride of lime scattered about the floor and the decomposing limbs and trunks increase the offensiveness of the place.

MOST OF THE DEATHS CAUSED BY SUFFOCATION.

The Coroner made further *post mortem* examinations to-day, Physicians believe most of the deaths were caused by suffocation.

UNFOUNDED RUMOR.

There was a rumor this morning that men digging in the ruins had come upon a new pile containing 200 dead and mutilated bodies. There was no foundation for this rumor.

THE RELIEF COMMITTEE

is now ascertaining the number of surviving relatives and their condition. At services in the Catholic churches to-day, reference was made to the disaster, and the congregations were called upon to make manifest their Catholic charity by prayers for the dead and pecuniary aid for the living.

A VERY INTERESTING ESCAPE FROM THE FLAMES

was that of one of the stage hands, Timothy Owen, who made his way through the underground passage to the coal bunk under the pavement, and succeeded in getting beneath the coal hole, where his rappings on the cover attracted the attention of some bystanders. They saw the cover move, and prying it up, pulled out the fortunate fellow and a companion.

STEALING FROM A CORPSE.

A corpse on which, last evening, lay some money—three silver coins—a half dollar, a quarter dollar and five cent piece—appeared this morning bereft of the coins.

THE PUBLIC FUNEAL OF THE UNIDENTIFIED DEAD

will take place on Saturday, instead of Sunday, as previously stated. The memorial service, however, will be held on Sunday at noon, To-morrow the militia will assemble on Schermerhorn street, right resting on Flatbush avenue. The procession will be in the following order; Police—band—clergy in carriages—hearses escorted by military—relatives and friends in carriages—city officials in carriages—citizens. The procession will move at one o'clock. The services in the cemetery will consist of prayers, addresses and singing by choral societies. The bodies will be taken from the two morgues by undertakers without special ceremony, and carry each coffin in a separate vehicle to the place of assembly on Schermerhorn street, which will be kept free from ordinary travel while the cortege is forming. Places of business will be closed between the hours of one and three. The lot in the cemetery is on the summit of an elevation. It is circular and nearly sixty feet in diameter. The rise from the circumference to the center is about two feet. The ground was presented by the Cemetery Association, and the plan for the arrangement of the coffins was made by Comptroller Perry. In order that the services may not be marred by the presence of any sort of a hill of fresh earth thrown up by the grave diggers, Comptroller Perry volunteered to have all the earth carried away and afterwards carted back again. A circular trench fourteen feet wide will be dug completely around the inside of the circumference. This will be walled, after which the coffins are to be laid side by side, and so set down in the trench. Then as many more tiers as may be necessary. The workmen are busily engaged digging the trench to-day. The lot is in Battle avenue, near the exit for funerals. All the coffins are to be alike. They will be plain but tasteful in construction, the only ornament being a double row of diamond beaded tacks. It is supposed that not more than one hundred vehicles will be needed. About 3,000 infantry, under command of General Thomas S. Dankin, will form the escort. The line of march will be through Flatbush avenue to Sixth avenue, thence to Third street, thence to Fourth avenue and Twenty-fifth street, which leads to the cemetery. The services on Sunday will be held at the Union Hooley's Opera House, Park Theater and Academy of Music. The vocal music will be under the direction of F. W. Lovejoy, and the instrumental music under direction of L. Conterno, Band Master of the Twenty-third Regiment.

WHAT THE PROFESSION WILL DO.

The actors, masculine and feminine, with characteristic generosity, have promptly volunteered their services in aid of the fund for the relief of suffering and impoverished surviving relatives of the dead. Clara Morris, Rose Eytinge and John T. Raymond are conspicuous volunteers, and Mr. McVicker has tendered the services of Edwin Booth. Members of the theatrical profession have appointed a committee to confer with theatrical managers in the United States and ask their co-operation in the raising of funds. J. T. Ford, it was promised, would give the proceeds of a performance in each of his theaters in Baltimore and Washington.

HARRY GRIFFITH'S STORY.

Harry S. Griffith, who was in the dress circle with his wife, writes to Fire Marshal Keady saying: We were the last to leave our seats. We tried to escape by the door-way in the corner near where we were sitting, crying out the words, "Fire in the Johnson street." We were driven back by the smoke and fire that was making its way through the partition, and when we turned round to go toward the main entrance, all the people in the dress circle had got into lobby. We had no difficulty in getting into the lobby, but found that it was blocked, and that we could get no further. At that moment we were overwhelmed by smoke, and I suppose I was partially suffocated. I am sure that there was no one in the dress circle behind me, and with the exception of a female lying on the stairs and over by the box, I saw no one, there were no females above the first landing when I brought my wife down.

The story to the effect that some of the officers of the Brooklyn Theater had locked, refused to allow certain men to escape by means of the grating from the basement of the theater during the fire, is most emphatically denied by Captain Crafts and his sergeants. They say that women were rescued through the grating in question, and that they were unaccompanied. They also declare that this part of the theater was searched by the fireman after the alarm had been given and was found empty.

FURTHER LIST OF THE IDENTIFIED DEAD.

The names and residences of the identified dead are as follows: Albert S. Amandus, 206 Atlantic avenue; John Anderson, 177 Water street; Alfred Arnold, 33 Hamilton avenue; Joseph Aurbach, 34 Hudson avenue; Frances Arnaux, Hamilton avenue and Centre street; August Averbach, 34 Hudson avenue; Peter Boyle, —— Place; Robert H. Boyle, 132 Portland avenue; Thomas Boyle, 304 Adams street; Patrick Brodevick, 33 William H. Barrett, Vanderbelt avenue; Christopher Bell, Smith street; Louis E. Beckman, 283 Sand; William Brown, 56 Navy; Mary Boodis, 92 Fulton; William Brown, 520 Hicks; Thomas Brown, 520 Hicks; Mrs. Henry M. Bunce, 196 Fulton street; William Bryant, 3 Marcy avenue; William Bryant, 370 Navy street; Daniel Burroughs, St. Stephens Hotel, N. Y.; William F. Burton, 346 Lafayette avenue; Mrs. E. Barrett, 606 Vanderbelt avenue; Frederick Brocks, 197 Fulton street; Brosnan, St. Mary's Asylum; Mrs. Ann Burke, Mrs. Blackford, Bridge street; Samuel W. Calhoun, 38 North Portland avenue; Edward Cassidy, Hamilton avenue and Centre street; Joseph A. Cullen, 45 Amity street; John Casiel, 184 Prince; Daniel J. Collins, 101 Prospect; Mrs. Conroy, 16 Walworth; Michael Conroy, 251 Plymouth; Michael Conroy, 46 York; James Cowan, 197 South Portland avenue; Thomas Cassidy, 445 Gates avenue; Walter Creech, 44 Duffield street; John D. Cullen, 46 Amity; James D. Cullen, 145 Amity street; Kirby Cullen, 125 Lake; Nicholas Curry, 296 Plymouth street; Edward Clark, 249 Eighteenth street; Samuel Cooper, 1 Sumpter street; James Cassidy, 150 Hamilton avenue; Stephen Chase, 96 Prince street; Nicholas Conroy, 253 Plymouth street; Mortima Cavanaugh, Samuel C. Davis, 445 Gates avenue; Mrs. Ann Dunn, Bridge street, Williamsburg; Debaro, Clara, his wife; Edmund Delspotherne, 99 Smith; Thomas Dempsey, 107 Fourth avenue; Mrs. Dunlop, 127 Ferry street; Matilda Duffey, Ward 14, North Oxford; Mrs. Dunn, Eighteenth street, Gowanus; Conroy, Canton and Willoughby streets; Charles Dunlap, Eighty-first street and Boulevard; Wm. Dempsey, 107 Mc. Donough; Mrs. Devere, 244 Fourth street; John Doran, Canton and Willoughby; Jacob Deitz, 394 Kent street; James Elliott, Baltic street; Sydney Evans (colored), Hudson and DeKalb avenue; George Ellingsworth, 1 High street; Thomas Foly, 151 Degraw; William and Charles Franke, 71 Degraw; Patrick Frankish, Fulton; George Farrell, 145 Myrtle avenue; George Freel, 100 Fleet Place; Rosena Folsden, 30 Fifth avenue; Thomas Fitzpatrick, 170 Columbia; Patrick Gallagher, 238 Plymouth; John E. Garvey, Adams; Charles R. Gassel, 98 Livingston; Joseph Gallagher, 126 York; Mrs. Geary, 104 President; Philip Gelli, —— 96 Wacott; Francis Godwin, 175 Court; James Goodwin, 66 Court; Charles Gracie, 87 Douglass; Alfred Gray, 158 Colyer street, Green Point; John Graves, age twenty-one; Frank Gibbons, 1029 Lafayette avenue; James Gardiner, unknown; R. E. Gaines, 209 Butler street; Mrs. Hendricks, wife of William Hendricks, and three children, John Hinby, 176 Prospect; Samuel Hawkins, 19 Pierce street; William Hartman, 300 Marcy avenue; Samuel Hunt, Bridge street and Myrtle avenue; Samuel Hayes, 688 Warren street; Louis Hecht, 431 Pulaski; Mr. Hendricks, Lawrence Howell, 34 Hudson; John Hackett, 34 Hudson avenue; John Hickey, 103 Fulton; John Hayes, 266 Twenty-second; Charles Jackson, aged thirteen, 36 Hudson; Mrs. Ann Jane Hicks; John H. Jackson, 345 Adams; Robert N. ——, 443 Fulton; Mrs. Johnson, 443 Henry Jones, 251 Summit Place; J. W. Jennings, 47 Concord; J Keelan, Marcy avenue; V. F Kavanaugh, 68 Bergen street; Mrs. Kelly, 264 street; John Kerrigan, 74 Beekman street, New York; Henry Kraft, 256 Boerum street; Joseph Kenney, —— Manjer street; Abraham Krutz, 322 Myrtle avenue; Abraham Kurtz, 322 Kent; John Kelly, Bridge and Marcy avenue and Kosciusko street; Kielvy, 430 Varona street; George Kraft, 183 Boerum street; Lizzie Kelly, 39 Bond; Mrs. Kelly, Fulton; Lawrence Lamb, 36 Plymouth; John Lane, 86 Prince; James Lanigan, Patrick Lawler, age thirty; Michael Lynch; Margaret Leitham, age seventeen, East New York; Isaac Lessuir, At-lantic avenue; Caleb Lee, thirty-five, clerk, Avenue; John Locke, Abraham Lawentnan, 26 Fulton street; Mrs. Lawrence; Frances Josph Leonhey, 242 Conover; George Loit, 646 Sackett avenue; Lolz, policeman on duty in the theater in the gallery; John Lemmond Loughlin, 244 Bridge street, likewise Annie, New York; George Logan, 209 Amity; James Lounan, 46 York; Margaret Ludgate, 189 Atlantic avenue; James Layton, 68 State street; Mrs. Lewis, 31 Evans street; John Maginnis, 11 Evans; Patrick Martin, E. D., 25 North Elliott Place; Ann Martin, 374 Lawrence street; Ann Mason, 332 Gold street; James F. McCaffray, 251 Navy; Patrick McCaffrey, 251 Navy first; Patrick McCarthy, 55 James street, New York; Angus F. McCollough, 294 Pacific street; John McCullough, 294 Pacific street; Francis McGill; Michael 18 Meeker avenue; John McGuff, 490 Court street; John McDermott, 54 Elm; John McAdams, 806 Atlantic avenue; Joseph Medinger, 184 President street; Harry McNally, 222 Prince street; Alfred Meigh, 40 Sackett street; Wm. Mayer, 23 Orchard street, New York; Mitchell, brother and sister, New York; Albert W. Morrison, 105 Sackett street; Wm. Morrison and John Mowburn, 25 Centre street, New York; H. S. Murdock, 147 James street; Murphy, 62 Amity street; Murphy, male, Eighty-first street, New York; Miss Mulvaney and Mary Little, Water street; William R. Neagle, 58 Broadway, E. D.; Hugh O'Brien, 193 Concord; Joseph O'Neil, Myrtle avenue and Ridge street; Annie O'Neil, wife of above; Stephen Oram, 66 Prince street; Jacob O. Ostrander, 34 Navy; Charles Otis, 94 Clinton; Hugh Obermier, Hanover street; Leon O'Hara, 147 Sackett; Louisa Parbett, servant girl, Mrs. Parker, 82 Concord street; St. Louis Lewis Payne, 470 State street; his mother lives at Binghamton; Frank Plumb, 64 Fulton avenue; John T. Pollard, Grand street and Flushing avenue; Wickham Powell, 929 Fifth avenue; Frank Pinkney, Gates avenue, street; Elias B. Lick, 29 Eighth street, E. D.; James Quinn, 81 Gold avenue; Henry Reilly, 68 Bergen street; Donald Rose, 294 Pacific; J. Rait H. Russell, 150 Sackett street; Ryan, Walworth street; Patrick Reagle, 2 Concord street; St. Louis; Lewis Payne, 470 State street; his mother lives at Binghamton; Frank Plumb, 64 Fulton avenue; John T. Pollard, Grand street and Flushing avenue; Wickham Powell, 929 Fifth avenue; Frank Pinkney, Gates avenue, street; Elias B. Lick, 29 Eighth street, E. D.; James Quinn, 81 Gold avenue; Henry Reilly, 68 Bergen street; Donald Rose, 294 Pacific; J. Rait H. Russell, 150 Sackett street; Ryan, Walworth street; Patrick Reagle, 2 Concord street; St. Louis; Theodore Roberson, 825 Willoughby street; Mrs. Joseph Rogers, East New York; John Reddy, 36 Walworth street; George Stephens, 214 Jay; Henry Schautz, 289 Court; Solomon Osborn, 103 Boerum Place; Marys Solomon, 103 Boerum place; Morris Solomon, 103 Boerum place; Mena Solomon, wife of Philip, 103 Boerum Place; Boerum Place; Thomas Stenson, 1,191 Dean street; Abraham Stettour, 40 Flatbush avenue; Charles H. Styles, 251 Putnam avenue; George Stephens, 214 Jay street; Mrs. Smith and daughter, 5 Sands street; John Sullivan, 23 Johnson street; Thomas Smith, Thomas, Philadelphia, Penna.; John Tracy, 285 Wickoff street; John Turner, 126 Jay street; G. H. Wakeman, 14 Willoughby; William Ward, 18 South Oxford; James Welch, 69 Catherine; Michael Weldon, South First and Seventh streets; Thomas Whistence, 447 Hudson avenue; W. Aulson; John J. Woods, 101 Fleet Place; Charles Wroe, Jr., son of Charles Wroe; Charles Wroe, 19 Prince street. The following is the story told by Charles Vine to Fire Marshal Keady, who examined him in the hospital: I live at No. 3 James street, Brooklyn; I was at the theater on the night of the fire; I am a bill poster; work for Kenney & Murphy and can go into the theater whenever I like; I am there at least once a week; I am well acquainted with the whole theater, and generally go in the gallery; I was in the gallery on Tuesday night; I first heard a rumbling noise, back of the stage, somebody cried "fire," and then Miss Claxton and the men on the stage told the people to be quiet; that there was no fire; at the same time the fire commenced to fall on the stage; when I saw it first pieces were dropping on the stage; as soon as the cry of fire was raised, the people rushed to the door, but were held by the actors to be quiet, some sat down again for a moment; then the fire became visible, and then followed a fearful panic. The whole audience in the gallery, women and boys, rushed for the door; the women screamed and the men cursed and swore at each other. They piled up in a heap in the passage way in the gallery before they came to the stairs. The gallery was well filled; I was alone; there was only one opening from the gallery out to the hall where the stairs were, and the opening had no doors; it was about seven feet wide; when the crowd tried to get out at this door all at once, but the number who got out at the first blush, packed up the stairs, and then from the them could move; I looked at them as few seconds, and they did not move, and then I looked for some other way to get out; went up to a window on the east side over Flodding's alley, and the sash, which was quick, fast, and looked out, but saw that it was a great height above the street, and was afraid to jump; the crowd was still at the door inside of the galleries, screaming, and some of the women rushing about through the seats; there was still plenty of

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1876.

THE Democrats at Washington must be very hard to manage when RANDALL has to threaten them with Fort Lafayette. He had better let them follow their natural instinct to keep out of harm's way as much as possible.

THE Washington correspondent of the Cincinnati *Enquirer* says there is a disagreement between the two wings of Democracy in Congress which "threatens serious danger" to the TILDEN plan of bulldozing the Administration.

IT IS a good sign to see the hot-bloods at Washington boiling over with wrath and fury. It is only when they are quiet and undemonstrative that they may be suspected of brewing mischief. They rave and roar when they are unable to do anything else.

THE Supreme Court of the United States has just affirmed the principle that declarations made by the holder of a chattel mortgage or a promissory note while he holds it are not competent evidence in a suit upon it, or in relation to it by a subsequent owner.

THE law of Oregon authorizes the electors for President to fill any vacancy in their body, occurring by death, resignation, "or otherwise." The law of Missouri does *not*. Hence the electors in Oregon had the right to fill vacancies and those in Missouri had none.

THE Southern Democrats do not want another war. They had enough of the last one. They depended on the Northern Democrats to help them then; and as they have no dependence but the same scabby lot, now, they are not afraid that any war will follow the present Democratic bluster.

BEN. HILL is reported to have said the other day that if HAYES became President he would have one of the greatest opportunities that a President ever had, and indicated by the tone of his conversation that he would not consider the election of HAYES a calamity for the Southern section of the country.

ACCORDING to the last report of the State Prison Board of New York, New York city, with eleven hundred thousand population, furnishes more criminals than all the rest of the State, with 3,400,000 inhabitants. At the late election the Democratic majority in that city was 53,000. Taken together, these facts are uncommonly significant.

THE New York *Herald* says: "On the face of the certificates HAYES is elected, and we judge it probable that this result will stand. At all events, the burden of proof is on the side of the Democrats, with the *prima facie* case against them." It adds that it is "against all probability that they will succeed in making MR. TILDEN the next President of the United States."

SAN FRANCISCO has shipped several cargoes of wheat to Australia and New Zealand, this season. Whether this is the beginning of what may become a permianent market of demand for the product of the Pacific coast, remains to be seen; but inasmuch as Australia has heretofore been a very considerable grain exporter, it is hardly probable that she will at once take rank as an importer.

THE foreign exports of Philadelphia, last month, amounted to over four millions and a half of dollars, as against $4,342,000 for the previous month of October, and $3,371,500 in November of last year, an increase for the month of the current year over that of 1875 of $1,137,051. The total figures for the eleven months of 1876 are $45,487,213, against $29,065,879 for the corresponding period of last year.

IT IS intimated that the details of the attempt to buy an electoral vote for TILDEN in South Carolina will be given to the public soon. It will implicate a New York agent, who was there under an assumed name; also the president of a railroad at Columbia. A clue to some of the remarkable proceedings of the Supreme Court of that State may possibly at the same time be furnished.

THE New York *Evening Post*, believing that the Returning Board in Louisiana acted legally, honestly and fairly, and taking into account the fact that there is no legal tribunal to which an appeal can be taken from its decision, urges the Democrats to comply with what is inevitable and submit peacefully to the election of HAYES and WHEELER. The Oregon fraud will not do to hang a hope upon, and the Democratic party has nothing else on which it can rely.

THE publication by the Chicago *Tribune* of that incendiary "open letter" of the "National Veteran Reform Association" to General SHERMAN, has evidently nipped a pretty little Bourbon conspiracy in the bud, and spoiled a number of well-defined plans. It has also badly demoralized the cloven-footed Democracy and placed them in a ridiculous light all over the country. The idea of arrogating to themselves the control of the army of the United States in their behalf has set the whole country laughing at them.

THE foreign commerce of New York, last week was: Merchandise imports, $3,862,598; exports of produce, $6,934,616, and specie exports, $462,132. The total imports since January 1, this year, were $295,487,068, against $305,574,014 for the same period last year, and $370,677,886 in 1874. The total exports of produce since January 1, this year, were $253,528,675, against $288,373,917 for the corresponding period last year, and $269,281,930 in 1874, and the total exports of specie during the same period were $42,640,862, against $67,474,281 for the corresponding period last year, and $55,532,133 in 1874.

THE new paralysis that has fallen upon the business of the country is the legitimate result of Democratic bluster and threats of revolution. If the Democratic party would but learn to submit to the public will, and would cease to threaten fire and bloodshed whenever caught in the act of fraud, the country would not be subjected to these steadily recurring moods of business depression. The fall season opened with an encouraging outlook on the commercial horizon; and if this encouragement has been dissipated, it is owing solely to the refusal of the Democracy to submit peacefully to the verdict of the ballot-box.

IN AN appealed case in which the collection of a life insurance policy was resisted on the ground that the insured person had committed suicide, the policy providing that it should be void in such case, the United States Supreme Court has just decided that the plea of insanity or of unconsciousness of the act is no answer to the allegation of suicide, and that insurance companies may limit their risks in any manner they see fit, provided the insured is told in proper language of the extent of the limitation, and it is not against public policy. This decision is of general interest and importance, alike to companies and policy holders.

THE foreign commerce returns of New York for November show the aggregate importations during that period to have been $1,076,401 in excess of the total for November last year, and $1,059,904 less than for the corresponding month in 1874. The increase as compared with last year, however, is due entirely to the unusually heavy specie import last month, the total standing $5,886,110, as against $1,051,950 for November, 1875. Deducting the item of specie, the merchandise importations were $3,757,733 less than for the corresponding month last year, and $6,639,609 below the total for November, 1874. The aggregate exports for the month were only $108,468 in excess of last year, and only $1,160,563 greater than those for the corresponding month in 1874. This, too, is due to the continued diminution in the shipments of specie, the merchandise exports showing a much larger increase over each of the past two years. The aggregate exports for the past eleven months are $9,433,335 less than for the corresponding period last year. The exclusive merchandise exports, however, for this period are $14,656,776 in excess of last year.

DEMOCRACY AND IGNORANCE.

The numerous speculations which have been made relative to the Presidential vote has induced a correspondent of the Rochester *Democrat* to institute a comparison in regard to the intelligence of the States supporting the respective candidates. The results are quite striking. The tables are compiled from the census of 1870. While the aggregate number of votes in the different States has increased during the past six years, there is not any apparent reason for supposing that the proportion of illiterate voters has been materially reduced, except in certain Republican States. In two or three of them the illiterates between the ages of fifteen and twenty-one years had been reduced during the preceding census decade. Upon the whole, however, it is apprehended by the best statisticians, that owing to the interruption and decadence of educational facilities during the war, the proportion of illiterate adults will be increased during the present decade. The tables show the entire number of males twenty-one years old and upward in each State, and the number of adult males who cannot read and write in the States giving Democratic and Republican majorities. Florida and Louisiana are included in the Republican column:

REPUBLICAN STATES.		
States.	Whole number of males twenty-one years old and upward.	Whole number of males twenty-one years old and upward who cannot read and write.
California	143,926	12,830
Colorado	15,515	2,368
Florida	28,854	20,062
Illinois	547,823	55,592
Iowa	256,802	15,417
Kansas	99,062	8,706
Louisiana	159,060	88,060
Maine	153,160	6,585
Massachusetts	319,770	31,242
Michigan	274,459	13,558
Minnesota	97,271	8,065
Nebraska	36,109	1,049
New Hampshire	83,561	3,399
Nevada	18,952	580
Ohio	591,252	48,970
Oregon	34,698	2,120
Pennsylvania	776,345	67,108
Rhode Island	43,996	6,213
South Carolina	146,614	83,320
Vermont	74,867	6,912
Wisconsin	293,077	17,872
Total	4,072,777	505,839

DEMOCRATIC STATES.		
States.	Whole number of males twenty-one years old and upward who cannot read and write.	Whole number of males twenty-one years old and upward who cannot read and write.
Alabama	202,046	108,446
Arkansas	100,488	57,291
Connecticut	127,499	9,617
Delaware	28,207	7,231
Georgia	231,919	122,450
Indiana	576,780	39,513
Kentucky	282,305	81,715
Maryland	109,845	40,467
Mississippi	169,757	90,167
Missouri	380,235	52,792
New Jersey	194,109	17,399
New York	961,589	77,190
North Carolina	214,224	101,780
Tennessee	253,016	85,031
Texas	169,016	61,740
Virginia	266,080	122,554
West Virginia	93,435	18,997
Total	4,350,152	1,088,287

A comparison of these tables shows that the proportion of illiterate male adults to the whole number of male adults is, in the States giving Republican majorities *twelve and a third per cent.*, and in the States giving Democratic majorities *twenty-five and two-thirds per cent.* In other words, the proportion of illiteracy in the voters is more than twice as great in the Democratic than in the Republican States. These tables most clearly show that ignorance is the main stay of Democracy, as it is also the root of our political evils. But not only is ignorance directly the strength and bulwark of the Democratic party, it is also the source of Republican weakness. In all the States except Connecticut, which is an unaccountable exception, the strength of the Republican party is in almost exact proportion to the intelligence of the voters. Ignorance in the North is the willing ally of Democracy, and at the South its helpless victim. It is the weakness which springs from ignorance that makes "Ku-Kluxing," "bulldozing," "intimidation," and all the infamous machinery of Democratic barbarism in the South, effectual to subvert the will of the people, and renders it possible for a brutal exponent of that egotism which denominates itself chivalry, like WADE HAMPTON, to make a campaign with thousands of armed retainers at his back, amid an unarmed, peaceable, recently-subjected race, in whose mind is yet fresh the terrible memory of Hamburg, and to so paralyse their volition by the fear of death or suffering as to make the ballot-box his instrument of usurpation. The dangers which now threaten the nation, those from which it has just escaped, and those which lie before, are the direct fruits of the darkened manhood which results from ignorance, the chief element and agency on which the Democracy has always relied for power and success.

THE NEXT STEP IN PRISON REFORM.

We imprison men to punish and reform. If punishment reformed the convict and deterred others from crime, all the ends of imprisonment would be secured by the imprisonment itself. But it has long been known that punishment is not reformatory, and that it has little deterrent power. To reform men in prison, we have found that we must use the same means which we use to reform those out of prison. No man is ever reformed by others. He must reform himself; and the penal system which gives the criminal the largest number of opportunities, and brings to bear on him the best and strongest motives to reform, is the best system.

We have now in operation, in all our penitentiaries, the advantages of work, instruction and worship. In the more advanced prisons, trades may be learned, overwork may be done by prisoners for their own profit when released, terms of sentence may be shortened by good conduct and by industry; a bonus is offered to each released convict, and even a pardon may be looked forward to by those who have been most exemplary as prisoners. All these have been incentives in our prisons, and the prisoners have come more and more under their influence. They have come to see that they can and must work out their own release; that their destiny is in their own hands, and that the prison officers are there to help them make the most of their opportunities. But we have not yet secured all the good results that penologists have aimed at. We want to secure so large a percentage of reformed convicts, and such an established degree of reformation, that the community shall willingly receive and readily absorb into the labor market the released convict—that a reformed prisoner shall be regarded with as much favor and sympathy as are accorded to a reformed drunkard.

The community as yet does not so regard the convict. "A jail bird" is speckled, and everybody pecks at him—and not much wonder. Society put him into prison because he was its enemy, and it does not believe that imprisonment has made him a friend. From society to the penitentiary is never a single step, and from the penitentiary to society one step is not enough. The change is too great and too sudden for both parties. We are not prepared for him, and he is not prepared for us. Hence suspicions and coldness and repulsion on our part, and shame and discouragement and relapse on his part. What shall we do? The answer to this question is: an *intermediate prison*—something between a workhouse and a penitentiary.

Fifteen years of unexampled success in Ireland has established its efficiency. It has proved to be the convict's training school for a safe and ready entrance into honest society. As he wins his way from the penitentiary to the intermediate prison by his good conduct, his application and his work, so he wins his way from the intermediate prison back to society, by the same good conduct and application and work—when it is seen that these things have become habits—the habit of industry, the habit of self-control, the habit of self-reliance and the habit of self-respect.

In the intermediate prison, it will be seen, only the best convicts are found, because they can only get there through their good conduct as prisoners, and their industry and progress while in the penitentiary. Here classification of prisoners is more complete, and therefore competition is more active and supervision is more individual. The convict is treated more as a man and less as a prisoner. He is not locked up, and there is no physical force used to keep him. His supervisor works with him; his liberty is extended, and he learns to use his freedom by having it. He learns to resist temptation because on that depends his going forward towards entire freedom or going back again to imprisonment. As he is soon to enter society, he is fitted for it. There are no marks, no training in classes. He is put on his good behavior. He gets his instruction according to his tastes. He is his own man and has every inducement not to abuse his liberty—so nearly achieved. For such convicts there has been found no difficulty in obtaining work, and the number of relapses has never been such as to shake the faith of the community in the system.

But can we engraft the intermediate prison on our present system? We can, for it is already an inherent part of the Pennsylvania system, and only needs developing. We have the solitary cell for punishment; we have congregate work, worship and instruction; we have commutation for good conduct. We only need a separate building into which the best of our prisoners may be promoted, and where, under "individualization" of treatment, the convict shall not merely be guarded from the contamination of his fellow-convict—now a prisoner rather than a criminal—but where he is individualized in order to learn to take care of himself, whether among criminals or honest folk.

This question is of present practical moment, because both our penitentiaries have for some years been not only crowded to excess, but crowded in the face of the statutes—in the face of the best results—sanitary, economic and reformatory. We must soon have another penitentiary, at a cost of $2,000,000; or provide something better for the prisoner, and better and cheaper for the State—an intermediate prison. The Board of State Charities is now exercised with this question, and we believe is to meet this week to discuss it. The old House of Refuge grounds and buildings, although not owned by the State, have been practically under its control, and might readily be obtained and converted into an intermediate prison. The project seems altogether feasible, and is worthy of earnest consideration.

THAT the old feeling in favor of protection should develop itself in England, under the present depression in the manufacturing trade, was naturally to be expected. We are not, therefore, surprised to find the iron men of that country suggesting a return to the system of protective duties. The President of the British Iron Trade Association, Mr. GEORGE T. CLARK, has forwarded to the Foreign Office, through the Associated Chambers of Commerce of the United Kingdom, an interesting though exceedingly gloomy memorandum concerning the present position of the iron trade. This memorandum does not enter into specific details of the present depression, nor does it give any regular statistics; but the association reports that a large proportion of the furnaces were out of blast, and a still larger proportion of the forges and mills for the production of malleable iron were closed. Thousands of workmen had been discharged, and the wages of those at work materially reduced. Accurate statistics upon these latter points are only to be obtained with excessive difficulty, if at all; but of the extreme depression of the trades there can be no doubt, and that it is greater and more serious than has ever before been experienced. "The confirmation of such facts by so high an authority as MR. CLARK," says the London *Mining Journal*, commenting on the report, "is very regretable, and should at least suffice to raise the question *whether such a lamentable state of affairs is not entirely traceable to the principle of unlimited free trade*, which has been so long adopted by successive liberal governments, and whether it is not the reliance upon the almost opposite principle in France that has secured her present comparative prosperity."

It is rather singular that just at the moment when the friends of free trade are beginning to falter in its support, in the only country where it has been fairly tried, an effort should be made in earnest to establish protection. With a ruinous result, and its fatality so sure. When the iron men of England acknowledge the failure of free trade, the United States should be ashamed of entertaining the idea of adopting it.

RESOLVED to its last analysis, the Eastern complication, as between England and Russia, seems to be that should a Russian force cross the river Pruth, with hostile views, such an act will be regarded by Great Britain as a *casus belli*. Should war between these Powers break out, there are good grounds for believing that Austria and Roumania would follow the lead of England. Indeed, it is said that those Powers have already intimated, through the usual underhand channels of diplomacy, that if England will regard the crossing of the Pruth by Russia as an act of war, they may be relied on. In this case the campaign would probably open on that famous river, with the Austrians, Roumanians and Turks opposing Russia on land, and the English gunboats at work on the water. The Turks with very little assistance could hold the line of the Danube. English troops would garrison the lines of Constantinople, while the Turkish troops went to the front. In Asia, England would have to fight in the open. She would have to keep command of the Valley of the Euphrates. For this a large force would be required, and it would be augmented by Mohammedan troops from India. English war ships would also operate in the Black sea and the Baltic, and then with the strategy of war by land and sea would come the strategy of policy. English agents would be sent to stir up the Poles, the Georgians and the Circassians, who do not require much show of help or sympathy to rebel against their Russian masters. Khiva, moreover, would probably be in open revolt in a month, if she were supplied with means. Whether these agencies would result in any material disrupture of the great Northern Empire, remains yet to be seen.

THE Rochester *Democrat* calls attention to a precedent which the Democrats are by no means in a position to ignore. In 1872 there was a Democratic Returning Board in Louisiana. The law under which the board then acted was precisely the same which now governs it; and in accordance with its provisions the board threw out the vote of various districts—among others that of poll eight of the Third ward of New Orleans. The reason for this action is stated in the evidence of FREDERICK SOUTHMAYD, page 450 Louisiana Investigation:

Question—Any other poll thrown out?

Answer—Yes, sir; poll number eight of the Third ward of the city of New Orleans was thrown out from protests by citizens received—Dr. Bruns and Dr. Choppin and Mr. Lukes, one of the United States Supervisors; the box had been opened several days prior to the count and they protested against its being received, and it was thrown out.

It thus appears that the Democratic Returning Board threw out the entire vote of a poll upon the protest of citizens that there were irregularities about it. Two conclusions were involved in the proceeding: First, that it was the duty of the board to make a scrutiny of the returns; and, second, that it had full power to throw out any return upon evidence that it was vitiated by fraud. Of course the board took no such action without maintaining that it had full sanction of law for it. The law remains unchanged, and the Republican interpretation of 1876 is exactly the Democratic interpretation of 1872.

"DUKE" GWIN, who compiled the "solid South" for TILDEN, and engineered the Oregon infamy in the interest of the same individual, was one of the first Senators from California, having been elected in 1850 for six years, and in 1856 re-elected for the term which expired in 1861. GWIN was the leader of that wing of the Democratic party which was composed of Southern-born champions of slavery and known as "the chivalry." When the rebellion broke out he was a secessionist, and went over to France in the interest of the rebel government. While there LOUIS NAPOLEON patronized him, and consulted him upon the scheme to erect a monarchy in Mexico, which cost the unfortunate MAXIMILIAN his life. NAPOLEON desired GWIN's services in Mexico, and offered to create him Governor of the State of Sonora, with the title of duke. But the bubble broke on the suppression of our rebellion, and GWIN returned to the United States, when he was arrested for treasonable actions, and confined in Fort Lafayette. He was released from imprisonment by ANDREW JOHNSON in 1866. He is now the confidential agent and manager of TILDEN in his conspiracy to usurp the Government.

THE burning of the Brooklyn Theater, which will long stand in solitary and unequaled horror, forcibly reminds one that the Brooklyn's chief distinction is found in the characteristic of misfortune. A century ago the American arms there incurred a defeat hardly equaled in our history for slaughter. There, too, transpired the greatest scandal known in the chronicles of American society, one whose pollution not only defiled a vast congregation, but permeated the circles of literature and journalism with an immense breadth of pestilential poison. All over the world Brooklyn became notorious for its chronicle of intrigue, in which genius and apparent piety were degraded by the basest of passions. Hardly had the atmosphere been cleared when a horror of untold and almost incredible dimensions brought Brooklyn again before the world, its infamy thus changed for the slaughter of a multitude which perished by a most cruel and heartrending fate. What is that city coming to?

THE New Orleans correspondent of the Cincinnati *Commercial*, writing from that city before the final decision of the Returning Board was rendered, said:

These men who composed the Returning Board have been abused fully as much as they deserve. They are Republicans from principle. They endanger their lives by counting in the Republican ticket, but without reward. On the other hand, they could get $100,000 each to count in Tilden. It is asserted that $300,000 of Democratic money from New York is now here, to be used, if possible, in buying up the board, but so far without success. The money may have been sent by New York betting men. I do not know as to that. But I have reasonably good authority for saying that it has so far been without avail. I am informed that one of the members of the board has been approached in a manner that he could not misunderstand, but the approach was useless. If the board was is black as it has been painted, it seems remarkable that so large a sum should have no influence upon it.

THE Democratic members of the Senate—all but four—voted in favor of the decision of Vice President FERRY that there are no joint rules existing between the two Houses of Congress. The Democrats in the House vote just the other way; which proves either that the party is distracted, or that the good sense of the Democratic Senators has prevailed over the revolutionary purposes of the House. The latter is the most probable conclusion. With the exception of BEN. HILL, of Georgia, there does not seem to be sense enough among the Democratic members of the House to determine any question of importance just now. When it comes, as BEN. HILL says, to facing the conservative influences of a sixteen-inch bombshell, they will be more apt to act sensibly.

GENERAL AND PARTICULAR.

"There's a divinity that shapes our ends rough, Hewitt, how you will."

A new codfishing ground has been discovered on the Labrador coast.

The children are beginning to examine the Santa Claus of their constitution.

The use of asbestos as a material for theatrical scenery is now suggested.

Deer are more abundant this present winter than at any time during the past ten years.

Wheat shipments from Oregon this year have been more largely to Europe than ever before.

The Western country editors' annual call for "subscription wood" is again heard above the howling of the wintry winds.

Virginia proposes to establish a uniform system of tobacco inspection, and a thorough revision of the [illegible] now in force.

Judging from present indications there is no industry on the Pacific coast more certain of a great development than that of ship building.

Next week the fast mail trains will restore to the people the postal facilities which have been so severely missed during the past few months.

For the first time in their history the quarries at Portland, Conn., have an order direct from Europe for a quantity of Connecticut brown stone.

The hatters propose to call a national convention to protest against Morrissey's decision declaring election bets off as revolutionary and unconstitutional.

It is gratifying to learn that the fund to secure the assassination of editors who head ponderous leaders with "Watchman, what of the Night?" is rapidly increasing.

Illinois has fifty-two railways with 7,275 miles of track. Nineteen of these roads are in the hands of receivers or have recently passed under the control of bondholders.

The total wheat shipments from San Francisco since July 1, this year, have been 6,819,736 centals, being a very large gain over the figures for the corresponding time in 1876.

As significant of the change which the value of silver is undergoing, the trade dollar is quoted in San Francisco—brokers' purchasing rates, ninety-eight cents, and selling rates at par.

Making light of a grave subject. It is now proposed that cremation be done in gas retorts, and it is estimated that the average human body will yield some 2,000 feet of illuminating gas.

The imports into the Dominion of Canada during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1876, were of the value of $93,210,346, while the exports were $80,966,435, showing an apparent adverse trade balance of rising $13,000,000.

A sure and quick way to detect twenty cent pieces which have been fraudulently milled is look at the eagle on the coin. On the quarters its head is always pointed to the left, while on the twenty cent pieces it looks to the right.

There has been a heavy decline in the lake business at Oswego during the past year. The total amount of grain received during the season of 1876 was 7,118,913 bushels, against 8,293,798 bushels in 1875, a falling off of 1,174,885 bushels.

It is reported that steps are being taken to revive the coal combination in a modified form. The contemplated co-operation of the companies looks simply to the regulation of production, without attempting to control the marketing of coal.

English cotton manufacturers continue to find their dishonest practices reacting upon them. Two British consuls in China observe, in their official reports, that the import of cotton goods is greatly checked by the inferior and loaded qualities sent.

British Guiana has demonetized the Mexican dollar, till recently legal tender, and British silver is now legal tender to any amount. The Mexican dollars till now in circulation have been called and sold at considerable loss in the London silver market.

Utah is ahead, in some respects. In the southern section of that Territory they have recently found geese eggs that assayed $3,000 per ton in silver. One nest filled with eggs in a petrified state, all assaying largely in silver, has created much excitement.

An English scientist who has been making some curious observations and experiments on the color of animals, says: "The bleaching process applies to the ventral portions of animals by reflection." As *Hamlet* would say, they are "sicklied o'er with the pale cast of thought."

The new Catholic cathedral at New York is the largest church edifice in America. It is 332 feet long, and 174 wide, and its spires are to be 328 feet high. It exceeds in size both the Philadelphia and Montreal cathedrals. It will also be the costliest as well as the largest church on the continent.

WASHINGTON.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 10, 1876.

The President said to-day that

The Political Situation Was Much Embarrassed,

To say the least, by the bad temper shown, especially on the Democratic side; that whatever he had done in this connection was with a realizing sense of his constitutional obligations, and he was assured that he had done nothing outside of the law; that there was the fullest justification for sending troops into the Southern States, and if a fair investigation was had of the situation in the States where troops had been sent, this would be shown to the satisfaction of all parties. But notwithstanding the correctness of his motives and the necessity of his action, he had been misrepresented. He said that Hayes carried all but four of the States that furnished the men and the means to put down the rebellion, while Tilden carried all but three of the States which participated in it. In New York the greatest Democratic majorities were in wards where crime and illiteracy predominated; that the thirty-five electoral votes of that State were secured for Mr. Tilden mainly through the instrumentality of men who had no interest in the State or Government. The electoral votes of Connecticut and New Jersey were secured through the same class of voters; that Tilden had claims to the electoral votes of no State in the North through its best citizens, save in the State of Indiana. The classes referred to, he said, were given the right to vote, and therefore no one claims that Mr. Tilden has not legally carried those States. Now if the colored voters, he said, in the South could cast their votes with the same freedom, there never would have been any contests over the States of South Carolina, Florida and Louisiana, and he had no doubt that Mississippi, Arkansas, Alabama and possibly North Carolina would all have given large Republican majorities in the late elections. But, he said, to take another view of it, suppose the colored people were not allowed to vote; representation from the Southern States would be largely reduced; Tilden would be short thirty five votes from that section, which would make a vast difference in the result. He said no orders had been sent to Ruger to occupy the State House. His orders were to preserve the peace and to support the legally constituted authorities of the State; that the course pursued was dictated by what the officer believed to be necessary to carry out his instructions. If he had acted otherwise, Chamberlain would now undoubtedly be in a refugee from the State, like Governor Ames from Mississippi.

In regard to the concentration of more troops in Washington, he said it would be done if occasion demands it. He said he believed the question growing out of the Presidential election would be amicably adjusted, but that peace would be preserved at all hazards.

In reference to impeachment, the President said he was satisfied that he had performed his duty; that he had not violated the law, and thought that on a fair trial he would be able to produce such evidence in justification of all his acts in connection with the late military operations as would carry conviction to the minds of all fair persons throughout the country.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 11, 1876.

Democratic Caucus.

The Democratic Senators held a caucus to-day. There was considerable talk over the political aspect, and a tirade against the President. A committee consisting of Thurman, Bayard, Bogy, Kernan, Eaton and Stevenson was appointed to co-operate with the caucus Advisory Committee of the House in ascertaining the relations between the two Houses and the legal remedy, if any, for the present difficulties in determining upon the form of counting the electoral votes, and what provision shall be made for any future complication that may arise in reference thereto.

Democrats Getting Wild Again.

The Democrats of the House held a caucus to-day, in which inflammatory remarks were made by Randall, Wood, Caulfield, Hunton and Carr, the President's observations on the political situation furnishing the text. According to their view, he was ready to carry out any scheme for counting in the Republican candidates, and willing to back up that determination at the point of the bayonet. There was great excitement among Northern and Western members when the remarkable announcement was made by Randall that he had heard that the President was ready to have given the right to Wheeler inaugurated, and to accomplish that end would, if need be, throw enough Democratic members into Fortress Monroe on any pretext that could be devised to give the Democratic Administration a majority at the joint meeting for counting the Presidential vote. The proposed address will not be issued till further news from the Southern States. The address will be brief. It will set the facts forth, together with the [illegible] in determining doubtful questions in regard to the Presidential count, and upon which they rely as the basis of their determining the present complications, and will insist on the inauguration of Tilden and Hendricks and rely upon the American people. They express a determination to contest all attempts for the inauguration of Hayes and Wheeler unless those candidates, in their opinion, shall be found to be legally elected. On motion of Hunton, a resolution was adopted to refer the existing complications to the Judiciary Committee of the House, through a resolution to be presented in the House hereafter, with instructions to determine on what is the legal course for the House to pursue in regard to canvassing the Presidential vote and what are the legal relations of the two Houses towards each other in reference thereto.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 11, 1876.

THE DEMOCRATIC SENATORS HELD A CAUCUS

this afternoon, at which, after extended discussion of the political situation, Messrs. Thurman, Bayard, Bogy, Kernan and Eaton were appointed a committee to confer with any similiar committee which may be appointed on the part of the House, with reference to the Presidential complications, and to report what legal means exist for adjusting any difficulties that may arise between the two branches of Congress in regard to the counting of the electoral vote.

SPECIAL TERM OF COURT FOR SOUTH CAROLINA.

Solicitor General Phillips to day presented to the Supreme Court a petition of the United States District Attorney for the district of South Carolina, requesting that an order be made in accordance with the provisions of the Revised Statutes, directing a special term of the Circuit Court for the district to be held at an early day for the trial of parties recently arrested there for murder and other crimes against the United States. It is probable that among the cases to be presented for trial, there will be a number of those involving the question of intimidation of voters.

HOUSE DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS.

The Democratic members of the House of Representatives held a caucus this afternoon, which continued two hours. There was a general and spirited debate concerning the present political situation, and the difficulties which may arise between the two branches of Congress in regard to counting the electoral votes and to the inauguration of a President. Among the principal speakers were Messrs. Randall, Wood, Hunton, Caulfield and Carr. A determined spirit was manifested to maintain all the constitutional rights of the House, and to give effect to what is claimed by Democratic members to be the expressed will of the people in the late Presidential election. With a view to this end, it was agreed, on motion of Mr. Hunton, to procure the passage by the House of a resolution directing the Judiciary Committee to inquire and report what course the House should pursue in reference to the counting and declaration of the electoral votes, and also what are the respective rights and duties of the two Houses of Congress, separately or jointly, in regard to the entire subject of a Presidential election. Several members inclined, it is said, Messrs. Randall, Watterson and Ely) having had interviews with Governor Tilden recently, are understood to have communicated to the caucus the views expressed by him, to the effect that no action except of the preliminary character above indicated should be taken concerning existing or possible future political complication until after the return from the South of the House investigating committees. This morning's publication of statements made by the President in an interview yesterday, was the subject of considerable earnest comment of an unfavorable nature, and several members asserted that the views then expressed by the President indicated a settled purpose on his part to perpetuate the power of the Republican party, irrespective of all political consequences.

NOMINATION.

The President has nominated A. L. Snowden for Postmaster at Philadelphia.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 12, 1876.

The Forthcoming Democratic Address.

The Democratic Advisory Committee held a meeting this afternoon, at Tilden's hotel, and to-night at Hewitt's residence. The subject of consideration was the address to be issued under the auspices of the Democratic National Committee. Quite a difference of opinion exists among the members of the committee on the tone of the address, some favoring a more free expression of views, while others believe a more conservative tone would meet their purposes better. The committee adjourned to resume consideration of the address tomorrow, when it is expected it will be completed.

Remonetization of Silver.

Judge Kelley will submit his bill for the remonetization of the silver dollar and making it a legal tender for all amounts under five dollars, in all payments, except where otherwise specially stipulated in the contract, and for the purchase of bullion for the coinage of the same, at the rate of 412½ grains of standard silver per dollar, on Monday next.

Mr. Hewitt Explains His Interview with the President.

The following is furnished by Hon. Abram S. Hewitt, addressed to the Washington agent of the Associated Press:

In yesterday's papers I find a dispatch from you, reciting a conversation with President Grant in reference to the unfortunate state of affairs in South Carolina, and my interviews with him in reference thereto. So far as South Carolina was concerned, the President enjoined no confidence, but expressly stated that I was at liberty to communicate his views to the public. He did enjoin confidence in regard to what he said of Louisiana affairs, and that confidence I have respected, although, as I have already stated to him, I believe the publication of his statements would do much to tranquilize the public mind. In regard to South Carolina, the President stated that in his opinion more than sixty-three members having certificates from the Secretary of State were eligible to organize the House and transact business. As this view accorded with my own, and as no confidence was enjoined, I telegraphed it in the following language:

A. C. Haskell, Chairman, Charleston, S. C.:

I am able to say that neither House will be recognized by the President until it gets sixty-three members holding original certificates from the Returning Board.

ABRAM S. HEWITT.

My object in sending this dispatch was that I thought it would tend to allay the excitement in South Carolina, and prevent a collision between the people and troops, of which we were very apprehensive. On the 6th of December I received a reply which induced me to send the following telegrams to the President:

To the President: I have received a reliable telegram from Columbia, stating that the sixty-third member holding a certificate from the Secretary of State has been sworn into the House presided over by Speaker Kerr, which is therefore organized in accordance with the requirements of the law as stated by you.

To the President: I have just received a later dispatch, saying that the Supreme Court of South Carolina has pronounced its judgment and declared the House presided over by Mr. Wallace to be the legally constituted House of Representatives, and that Mackey is a private person, not Speaker or in any respect an officer of the legislative body.

On the evening of the same day Senator Randolph suggested that he and I should call upon the President and ask him whether, under the circumstances, he could not see his way clear to order the withdrawal of the United States troops from Columbia, and recognize the House of Representatives so constituted with sixty-three members. The President granted us an interview, which began by my saying that I had sent him the telegram from the House in reference to South Carolina affairs. The President at once replied that he had received them, and that very late on the preceding evening he had received a telegram from Columbia, saying that I had informed parties there that the President would recognize as a legal House that body which should have sixty three members with certificates from the Secretary of State. The President said that he had published that I had made any such statement; that he did not believe I had said he had done so, and that at any rate it was not true. I replied that I had sent no telegram to that effect, but had sent one, as nearly as I could recollect, as follows: "I am able to say that the President will not recognize any House that does not contain sixty-three members with original certificates from the Returning Board." The President replied, "That is correct; I did say so: that was my private opinion, but I did not say that I would recognize a House that had sixty-three members." I replied, "That is true, but I have been asked to do so." The President replied that as at present advised, he must decline to recognize the House containing sixty-three members, and he did not know that he would recognize the other House; that Chamberlain was Governor until some one was regularly inaugurated in his place, and that he should sustain him. The President did not say that I had violated his confidence in any particular, but he said it was a violation of his confidence if I had sent the telegram reported to him from Columbia, the sending of which I again denied. I then reminded the President that he had the means of testing the accuracy of my recollections of his statements, because immediately after the interview on Sunday, I dictated from the substance of the conversation and furnished him with a copy, and requested him to return it to me with any corrections he might choose to make, either to be published if he would consent, or to be retained for his future justification in case, after the 4th of March next, his intentions should be called in question. He has not returned me the copy so furnished, nor made any corrections known to my knowledge. The President said nothing to me in regard to my using any of his statements for the purpose of defeating the party which he [the President] represented. I have never regarded the President of the United States as representing any party, and I shall regret to see the President take any other position than that of the honored head of the people of the United States, without regard to party.

[Signed]

ABRAM S. HEWITT.

WASHINGTON, December 12, 1876.

A WEEKLY LIST OF UNITED STATES PATENTS

issued to the inventors of Pennsylvania and Ohio for the week ending December 5, 1876, and each patent will bear this date. Reported expressly for the COMMERCIAL by A. H. Evans & Co., Patent Solicitors, May Building, Washington, D. C.:

PENNSYLVANIA.

E. Green, North East—Window blinds.
F. H. Miles, Philadelphia—(Two cases) belt shifters, journals and bearings.
D. H. Wilder, Corry—Tubs and buckets.
E. W. Bingham, Philadelphia—Brick kilns.
H. C. Bishop, Pittsburgh—Cotton warps.
T. Halton, Philadelphia—Jacquard looms.
W. H. S. Hermaman, Philadelphia—Slate pencil sharpeners.
D. H. Mowen, Greencastle—Fly brushes.
G. A. Pillnsky, Philadelphia—Tobacco manufacture.
W. Pugh, Philadelphia—Process of waterproofing fabrics.
D. Stanton, Waymart—Laundry soap.
E. T. Starr, Philadelphia—Halter pieces for dental engine.
H. E. Tassey, Pittsburgh—Siphon propeller pumps.
S. E. Tassey, Pittsburgh—Propulsion of vessels.
E. E. Tassey, McKeesport—Dredging machines.
S. S. White, Philadelphia—Spittoon brackets.
H. M. DuBois, Philadelphia—Toy pistols.
G. L. Harrison, Philadelphia—Toy.
J. S. Lush, Philadelphia—Car springs.
E. N. Snyder, Quarrytown—Millstone dress.
F. E. Schneider, Philadelphia—Picture exhibitors.
J. Yocum, Jr., Philadelphia—Hangers for shafting.

Designs—R. Smith, Philadelphia—Font of printing types.

Trade Marks—W. Butcher's Sons, Philadelphia—Soap, lard and beef.
J. Fareira, Philadelphia—Medical preparation.
F. J. Frost, Philadelphia—Collars.
S. Fuguet & Sons, Philadelphia—Cigars.
Lovegrove & Co., Philadelphia—Cement.
Turner & Harrison, Philadelphia—Pens.

OHIO.

McClelland & McBride, Mt. Vernon—Barrel covers.
McCain & Purinton, East Liverpool—Earthenware.
H. G. Porter, Columbus—Extension tables.
J. B. Deming, Akron—Horse hay forks.
H. K. Shauck, Clayton—Roofing composition.
F. F. Baldauff, Cincinnati—Pavement composition.
J. H. Beau, Cincinnati—Vapor stoves.
A. W. Coates, Cincinnati—Scissors.
W. S. Haw, Cincinnati—Tools and tool holders.

THE MAD DEMOCRACY

Another of Their Plots Uncovered.

Its Object to Force the Inauguration of Tilden—"Committees of Safety" Organized in Various States—Assessments Levied on Merchants—A Military Organization Among Its Features.

CHICAGO, December 13.—It is asserted positively in Republican political circles that a deep laid plan has been on foot for sometime to secure the forcible inauguration of Tilden, after the House had decided that he was legally elected; that the recent open letter, signed by some prominent Chicago Democrats and addressed to General Sherman, and which got into print by mistake, was an evidence of this plot; that the scheme originated in Ohio, and committees had been appointed in other States, known as Committees of Safety, whose object was to secure a military organization and make a show of force in the North that assessments have been levied on wealthy merchants here and elsewhere to carry out the idea, and that the premature publication of some of the documents and information has frustrated the whole affair. Democrats who notice this charge at all, deny in a like positive manner that it contains a germ of truth.

FOREIGN NEWS.

BY THE ATLANTIC CABLE.

The Eastern Question.

THE CONFERENCE WILL RESULT IN PEACE.

LONDON, December 11.—The correspondent of the *Standard* at Constantinople telegraphs the following: I learn from undoubted authorities that the conference will certainly result in peace, a mode of satisfying all just demands and providing sufficient guarantees having been found.

IMPORTANT POINTS SETTLED BY THE PRELIMINARY CONFERENCE.

LONDON, December 12.—A telegram from Paris announces that the following telegram from Constantinople was received there to-day: At a preliminary meeting of the conference yesterday, under the presidency of General Ignatieff, the plenipotentiaries commenced by discussing questions concerning Servia and Montenegro, and agreed upon the following points which will be officially sanctioned later. The conference admitted the expediency of the rectification of the Montenegrin frontier, to be determined by an international meeting at Ragusa. It would comprise an addition of eleven districts, all named, to Montenegro. The Prince of Montenegro would go to Constantinople to do homage to the Sultan for the new territories conceded him. The conference admitted Servia's claim that fortresses be evacuated by the Turks, prisoners on both sides be returned, and the armistice prolonged until the conclusion of peace. It was further agreed that the Valley of the Drina should be considered as the western frontier of Servia, this rectification implying the definitive cession of Little Zvornik to Servia. These first results confirm the expectation of an understanding between the Powers.

General Ignatieff, in his last interview with the Marquis of Salisbury, is reported to have declared that he would accept the occupation of Bulgaria by a neutral State, such as Belgium or Switzerland.

A FAIR UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN RUSSIA AND ENGLAND—TURKEY WILL ADOPT THE TERMS OF THE CONFERENCE.

LONDON, December 13.—The Vienna correspondent of the *Times* states that confirmation comes from Constantinople that quite an unexpected and marked approach has been effected between the views of Russia and England. This seems due, above all, to the assurances given by General Ignatieff, concerning the aims of the Russian policy. In the face of this, it appears that Turkey felt it necessary to make known its views. Several Vienna papers publish a sort of *communique*, apparently emanating from the Sultan, and legal to be Turkish. Said *communique* declares that the Porte will adhere to the Treaty of Paris, and consider every project of occupation a casus belli.

AUSTRIA DEMANDS SATISFACTION FROM SERVIA.

LONDON, December 13.—A dispatch from Pesth reports that the Austrian representative has been instructed to quit Belgrade if Servia refuses satisfaction for the Servian attempts to assassinate some of the Austrian mail steamer by the Servian police.

ANOTHER ROTTEN INSURANCE COMPANY.

The Security Life Insurance and Annuity Company of New York a Rotten Corporation—A Receiver to be Appointed.

NEW YORK, December 13.—The *Time's* to-morrow will publish the following:

An examination of the books of the Security Life Insurance and Annuity Company of this city, by the Insurance Department of the State, which was concluded to-day, shows that it is insolvent, and has for some time been insolvent, and application will to-morrow be made to the Supreme Court for the appointment of a receiver to wind up the affairs. Deputy Superintendent McCall, who conducted the examination, said he thought the company's affairs were in so much confusion and disorder, its last annual statement having been falsified in several particulars. The company was organized in 1862, with a capital of $100,000, and in the days when it conducted on the policy note system, which is one of the main causes of disaster. While the annual report set forth the total income for 1875 as $1,360,434, the examination showed that this was about $350,000 in excess of the fact. The assets were stated at $3,085,186, but the amount of cash on hand was over-stated $150,000, and real estate placed far above its value. As to liabilities outstanding, the policies were examined and $50,000 added, and unpaid account $160,000. The officers are not charged with misappropriation of funds, but with committing perjury in swearing to the falsified statement, and with running a rotten corporation that they might get it into a state of solvency.

PHILADELPHIA.

Annual Meeting of the National Council of the Union League.

PHILADELPHIA, December 13.—The Board of Brokers to-day adopted a resolution offering a reward of $1,000 for the arrest and conviction of the parties who were instrumental in sending bogus dispatches to New York, purporting to be from members of the board, and intended to depreciate the value of the stock of the Central Railroad of New Jersey.

The annual meeting of the National Council of the Union League of America was held here to-day, quite a number of delegates being present from the various States. Ex-Governor M. A. Newell, of New Jersey, was re-elected President; Thos. G. Baker, of New York, and Samuel F. Gwinner, of Pennsylvania, Secretaries; C. W. Godard, of New York, and Thomas R. Rich, of Maryland, Vice Presidents; William Vanander, of New York, Treasurer. Interesting addresses were made by Messrs. Mitchell and Hockley, of Alabama; McAllister, of Delaware; H. M. Turner, of Georgia; Captain C. W. Godard, of New York, and General James S. Negley, of Pennsylvania. Important action was taken on the political questions now agitating the country, the details of which were ordered to be kept secret.

HEWITT SETTLES IT.

No Need to Count the Electoral Vote Now —The Great Democratic I Am Proclaims the Election of Tilden—Buncombe Ad Lib.

WASHINGTON, December 13.—The following congratulatory address was issued to-day:

ROOMS OF THE NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE,
WASHINGTON, D. C., December 13, 1876.

To the People of the United States:

The National Democratic Committee announce as the result of the Presidential election held on the 7th of November the election of Samuel J. Tilden, of New York, as President, and Thomas A. Hendricks, of Indiana, as Vice President of the United States. We congratulate you on this victory for reform. It now only remains for the two Houses of Congress, in the performance of their duty, to meet on the second Wednesday in February next, to give effect to the will of the people thus expressed in a constitutional mode by a majority of the electoral votes, and confirmed by a majority of all the States, as well as by an overwhelming majority of all the people of the United States.

By order of the Executive Committee.
[Signed] ABRAM S. HEWITT, Chairman.
FREDERICK O. PRINCE, Secretary.

SOUTH CAROLINA.

The Republicans Elect D. T. Corbin to the United States Senate—Arrival of Troops at Columbia.

COLUMBIA, December 12.—In the Democratic House to-day, a ballot was taken for a United States Senator. There were four been candidates, the votes ranged from one to eleven; the highest vote was cast for General M. C. Butler, of Edgefield.

Troops are arriving from Florida. Everything is quiet. There is no excitement whatever.

In the Republican House the ballot for United States Senator resulted in favor of United States District Attorney D. T. Corbin, who received fifty-eight votes out of sixty-six. Of the votes cast in the Senate Corbin received seventeen and Gary, Several, twelve votes. Corbin was declared elected. Both Houses adjourned.

FLORIDA.

The Congressional Committee at Work—Minutes of the Proceedings of the Canvassing Board.

TALLAHASSEE, December 11.—The trial of the contempt case against Cowgill and McLan, of the Returning Board, was continued to-day, pending the trial of the mandamus case, in which the former stood, above all, to the assurances given by General Ignatieff, concerning the aims of the Russian policy. In the face of this, it appears that Turkey felt it necessary to make known its views. Several Vienna papers publish a sort of *communique*, apparently emanating from the Sultan, and legal to be Turkish. Said *communique* declares that the Porte will adhere to the Treaty of Paris, and consider every project of occupation a casus belli.

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The Security Life Insurance and Annuity Company of New York a Rotten Corporation—A Receiver to be Appointed.

NEW YORK, December 13.—The *Time's* to-morrow will publish the following:

An examination of the books of the Security Life Insurance and Annuity Company of this city, by the Insurance Department of the State, which was concluded to-day, shows that it is insolvent, and has for some time been insolvent, and application will to-morrow be made to the Supreme Court for the appointment of a receiver to wind up the affairs. Deputy Superintendent McCall, who conducted the examination, said he thought the company's affairs were in so much confusion and disorder, its last annual statement having been falsified in several particulars. The company was organized in 1862, with a capital of $100,000, and in the days when it conducted on the policy note system, which is one of the main causes of disaster. While the annual report set forth the total income for 1875 as $1,360,434, the examination showed that this was about $350,000 in excess of the fact. The assets were stated at $3,085,186, but the amount of cash on hand was over-stated $150,000, and real estate placed far above its value. As to liabilities outstanding, the policies were examined and $50,000 added, and unpaid account $160,000. The officers are not charged with misappropriation of funds, but with committing perjury in swearing to the falsified statement, and with running a rotten corporation that they might get it into a state of solvency.

PHILADELPHIA.

Annual Meeting of the National Council of the Union League.

PHILADELPHIA, December 13.—The Board of Brokers to-day adopted a resolution offering a reward of $1,000 for the arrest and conviction of the parties who were instrumental in sending bogus dispatches to New York, purporting to be from members of the board, and intended to depreciate the value of the stock of the Central Railroad of New Jersey.

The annual meeting of the National Council of the Union League of America was held here to-day, quite a number of delegates being present from the various States. Ex-Governor M. A. Newell, of New Jersey, was re-elected President; Thos. G. Baker, of New York, and Samuel F. Gwinner, of Pennsylvania, Secretaries; C. W. Godard, of New York, and Thomas R. Rich, of Maryland, Vice Presidents; William Vanander, of New York, Treasurer. Interesting addresses were made by Messrs. Mitchell and Hockley, of Alabama; McAllister, of Delaware; H. M. Turner, of Georgia; Captain C. W. Godard, of New York, and General James S. Negley, of Pennsylvania. Important action was taken on the political questions now agitating the country, the details of which were ordered to be kept secret.

HEWITT SETTLES IT.

No Need to Count the Electoral Vote Now —The Great Democratic I Am Proclaims the Election of Tilden—Buncombe Ad Lib.

WASHINGTON, December 13.—The following congratulatory address was issued to-day:

ROOMS OF THE NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE,
WASHINGTON, D. C., December 13, 1876.

To the People of the United States:

The National Democratic Committee announce as the result of the Presidential election held on the 7th of November the election of Samuel J. Tilden, of New York, as President, and Thomas A. Hendricks, of Indiana, as Vice President of the United States. We congratulate you on this victory for reform. It now only remains for the two Houses of Congress, in the performance of their duty, to meet on the second Wednesday in February next, to give effect to the will of the people thus expressed in a constitutional mode by a majority of the electoral votes, and confirmed by a majority of all the States, as well as by an overwhelming majority of all the people of the United States.

By order of the Executive Committee.
[Signed] ABRAM S. HEWITT, Chairman.
FREDERICK O. PRINCE, Secretary.

SOUTH CAROLINA.

The Republicans Elect D. T. Corbin to the United States Senate—Arrival of Troops at Columbia.

COLUMBIA, December 12.—In the Democratic House to-day, a ballot was taken for a United States Senator. There were four been candidates, the votes ranged from one to eleven; the highest vote was cast for General M. C. Butler, of Edgefield.

Troops are arriving from Florida. Everything is quiet. There is no excitement whatever.

In the Republican House the ballot for United States Senator resulted in favor of United States District Attorney D. T. Corbin, who received fifty-eight votes out of sixty-six. Of the votes cast in the Senate Corbin received seventeen and Gary, Several, twelve votes. Corbin was declared elected. Both Houses adjourned.

FINANCE AND TRADE.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, December 13, 1876.

The financial situation continues to afford but little ground for extended comment, affairs among the banks being in all important respects as previously reported. The money market is decidedly quiet, the offerings of first-class commercial paper being rather limited, while the surplus funds of lenders are in large volume. Bankers are generally hoping for increased activity after the first of the year, and that hope prevents as much weakness in interest rates as might otherwise ensue from the present state of affairs. Discount rates are easy however, but the quotations for money remain unchanged at 7@9 per cent. on prime commercial paper at the banks, and 6@7 per cent. on first class collaterals. The commercial situation does not assume a very roseate appearance to ordinary observers at present. The reports from nearly all branches of trade speak of dullness and stagnation, with the exception of petroleum which volatile market has again made a rise which bids fair to surpass its previous remarkable performances. To those who probe deeply into causes of commercial activity, there are in the general business situation some grounds for a cheerful view of the future. Periods of hesitation and dullness must be expected in the course of progress toward activity, and such experiences as the present should not discourage those who have faith in the future of our commercial and manufacturing interests. The first half of the fall trade gave unmistakable evidence that a sound and general process of recovery from the three years of depression had then set in. This fact was so generally conceded that it does not need to be demonstrated. Whatever the causes may have been (outside of politics) for this revival, they still have a certain degree of vitality; and it is reasonably to assume that they will continue to operate.

—The general depression of business during November is duly recorded in the Clearing House returns, which show aggregate currency exchanges, at seven chief cities, of $2,633,232,534 during the month of November at Boston, and during the five weeks ending December 2 at the other cities, against $2,919,235,501 during the same time in 1875, a decline of 9 7 per cent. In August, the comparative decline was 7.7 per cent.; in September 8 per cent., and in October only 1.4 per cent. The political excitement has therefore not only checked the decided improvement noted in September, but given to the country a condition of business a little less favorable than that of August or September. Nevertheless, the decline is not quite as great as the supposed fall in prices since November, 1875, so that the volume of business in quantities exchanged is about the same as in that month. The exchanges at the chief cities at Boston for the month, and at the other cities for five weeks ending December 2, compare thus:

	1876.	1875.	Dec. 9 cent.
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Boston	395,307,330	431,248,395	8.3
Philadelphia	188,392,115	214,404,736	12.2
Chicago	111,307,562	130,509,636	14.7
St. Louis	52,827,001	59,859,000	11.8
Cincinnati	52,920,562	64,425,000	17.8
San Francisco	51,536,062	54,902,318	6.1
Pittsburgh	21,451,594	21,834,317	1.8
Total	$ 2,633,232,534	$ 2,919,235,501	9.7

The transactions of this month have been peculiarly hesitating and tentative—everybody has deferred operations, as far as possible, in the constant hope that the political uncertainties might be removed. The St. Louis clearings have shrunk 11.8 and by two. The St. Louis clearing-house, alone of all the clearing-houses in the world, makes up a fictitious total by adding in both the debit and credit sides of the account.

—The Philadelphia bank statement of averages for the past week, as compared with that of the previous week, shows an increase in loans of $285,204, in specie of $90,543, and in circulation of $65,884. The reserve decreased $1,736,163, the national bank notes $155,706, due from banks $221,802, due to banks $490,405, and deposits $1,281,586. The business at bank clearing-house quite an active movement. The clearings increased $4,664,078 Democratic electors, as thrown out of the canvass on account of gross violation of the election law by the inspectors in not completing the canvass without adjournment, in allowing unauthorized persons to handle the ballot-box and assist in the count, in adjourning over night, and going to another place, and in signing returns next day, which they had not themselves made or verified, and the contents of which they did not know. With these deductions this county was canvassed by unanimous vote. Monroe county, precinct No. 3, Key West, giving 401 votes to the Democratic electoral and State tickets, and 59 votes to the Republicans, was thrown out of the canvass on account or gross violation of the election laws by the inspectors in adjourning before the completion of the canvass, and completing it next day in a different place, and without public notice; the vote for its rejection was unanimous, the Attorney General deciding, in reply to a question put to him as to the legal effect of these violations of the law, that it must be thrown out. With this deduction the county was canvassed. Alachua county, seventeen illegal electoral votes, four Republican and thirteen Democratic, at Waldo precinct, were thrown out unanimously; the vote was taken on the ground of throwing out Archer precinct No. 2, the Secretary of State and Comptroller voting to retain, and the Attorney General voting to throw it out. It was retained, and the county canvassed with the before mentioned deduction. Jackson county, Campbellton precinct, giving for the Republican electoral and State tickets seventy-seven votes, and for the Democratic electoral and State tickets two hundred and ninety-one votes, was thrown out by the county canvassing board on account violation of the election laws by the inspectors in removing the ballot-box from one house to another for adjournment for dinner into an adjoining store, and leaving it there unsealed and concealed from the public on account said adjournment, in not counting the ballots at the close of the polls, and comparing them with the number of names of the poll list, and because only seventy-six Republican ballots were counted out of the ballot-box, whereas 133 persons swear that they voted the full Republican ticket at that poll. The vote of the board was as follows: Secretary of State and Comptroller for rejecting it, Attorney General for retaining. Friendship church precinct, giving for the Republicans electoral and State tickets fifty-four votes, and for the Democratic electoral and State ticket 145 votes, was thrown out of the canvass on account of violation of the election laws by the inspectors in placing the ballot-box in such a position as to be out of sight of the voters and public, in placing a supervisor at the window to receive the ballots instead of an inspector, in not making and completing the canvass at the polling place and without adjournment, and in view of the facts, but in a bedroom two miles away, and in not counting the ballots and comparing them with the number of names on the poll list. As to this precinct the vote of the board was Secretary of State and Comptroller for rejecting it, and Attorney General for retaining it. With these deductions the county was canvassed. The board by unanimous vote declared the State canvass concluded, and directed the Governor to prepare a certificate of the result. On the suggestion of the Attorney General, he was requested to call in some friend to look over clerk's figures and verify the foolings. He himself and Mr. Pasos, who examined and found said footings correct. The certificate of the electoral vote having been prepared and verified, it was signed by two members of the board, the Secretary of State and Comptroller, the Attorney General declining to sign it, saying that he would prefer to submit nothing forth his reasons. The board then, at three o'clock on the morning of the 6th, adjourned to allow time for the clerical labor of preparing the certificate of the result of the canvass at large. This having been completed and verified, it was signed on the 8th of November, as of date of the 6th, the day when the canvass was completed.

WILLIAM LEE APTHORPA,
Clerk of the Board of Canvassers.
SAMUEL B. MCLIN,
Secretary of State and Chairman of the Board of Canvassers.

I do hereby certify that the above is a true copy of the minutes of the final sitting of the State Board of Canvassers of the State of Florida, held on the 5th and 6th days of December, 1876.

WILLIAM LEE APTHORPA,
Clerk of the Board of Canvassers.
TALLAHASSEE, FLA., December 12, 1876.
SAMUEL B. MCLIN,
Chairman of State Board of Canvassers.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

A Premature Publication in Chicago—Tilden or War—What is the National Veteran Reform Association?

CHICAGO, December 11.—Yesterday morning one of the papers published a paper which created great excitement here, purporting to be issued by the National Veteran Reform Association, and addressed to General Sherman, being signed by General Corse and Don Cameron, of this city. It sets fourth that a dark conspiracy against the national liberties is afoot, and that the military force will be used to hold the Government. The paper declares that the signers are in earnest, and will fight if Tilden is not declared President. It declares that there will be fighting, and the army, if it opposes the will of the people, must lay down its arms. General Corse, in a letter to the Chicago *Tribune*, repudiates this document, saying it was published without his knowledge, set forth out authority of the association, and in violation of his rights.

Prominent Democrats of this city held a largely attended meeting this evening, to discuss the political situation. The sentiments expressed were generally of a pacific nature, but it was the general opinion that the House of Representatives must be maintained in its right at whatever cost. It was decided to hold a mass meeting at an early date.

LONDON, December 13, 5 P. M.—The

FINANCE AND TRADE.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, December 13, 1876.

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—The price of silver in London has advanced to 58d per ounce. At the New York price the gold or bullion value of the trade dollar to-day is 90¼c; the gold or bullion value of the old silver dollar to-day would be 87¾c, while the bullion value of the subsidiary silver coin is 91¼ for two halves, four quarters or ten dimes. Our silver small change is now prevented from disappearing only by the low premium on gold.

—The Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad Company earned $803 383 50 during the month ending October 31, being an increase of $156,102 56 over corresponding month last year. The earnings from Jan 1st to October 31st were $6,956,022 26, being an increase of $73,959 55 over corresponding period last year.

—The Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railroad Company earned $167,000 during the first week in December, against $194,884 for the corresponding week last year.

—The following table shows the prices of gold, Government bonds, railway stocks, etc., at the various sessions of the New York Stock Exchange during the day. Furnished by the Fifth National Bank, No. 16 Sixth street:

December 13, 1876.	10:30 A. M.	11:30 A. M.	12:30 P. M.	1:30 P. M.	2:30 P. M.	3:30 P. M.
Gold	107⅛	107¼	107⅜	107⅜	107⅜	107⅜
U. S. 6s, 1881, c. cp.	107½					
5-20's, 1865	108¾	108¾				108¾
5-20's, 1865, new	109					109
5-20's, 1867, registered	111¾	111¾				111¾
5-20's, 1867	112	112				112
5-20's, 1868, registered	113	113				113
5-20's, 1868	113⅛	113⅛				113⅛
10-40's	112	112				112
Currency 6's	121	121				121
Pacific Mail	72¾	72¾	72¾	72¾	72¾	72¾
Western Union Tel.	72¾	72¾	73	73	73	73
Quicksilver	23	23				23
Pacific Mail	24	24	24	24	24	24
Panama	130					
Adams Express	103½					
Wells-Fargo Express	89					
American Express	57					
United States Ex.	49½	49¾	49¾	49¾		
New York Central	104½	104½	104½	104½	104½	104½
Erie	8¾	8¾	8¾	8¾	8¾	8¾
Michigan Central	90	90				90
Michigan Southern	57	57	57	57	57	57
Illinois Central	97	97	97	97	97	97
Cleve. and Pittsburgh	90	90	90	90	90	90
Chicago & Northwest	58					58
Do. preferred	68¾					68¾
Rock Island	98¾	98¾				98¾
St. Paul common	57¼					57¼
Do. preferred	81¾	81¾				82
Wabash common	16					16
Fort Wayne	101¾					101¾
Ohio and Mississippi	5¾					5¾
Union Pacific	60¼					59½
Hannibal & St. Jo.	13	13				13
Hannibal & St. Jo. pref.	15¾					15¾
Iron Mountain	12¾					12¾
C., C., I. & L.	34					34
Del., Lack. & West.	94					94
South Carolina, Apr.	54					54
South Carolina, Jul.	54					54
Missouri 6's	106¾					106¾

—The following is the report of the prices of leading stocks on the Philadelphia Stock Board, as received by wire at noon to-day:

Stocks.	Bid.	Asked.	Sales.
Pennsylvania Central	40⅝	40¾	100
Reading	40	40¼	1,000
United Cos. of N. J.	133½	133¾	100
Phila., Wilm. & Baltimore	48	48¼	100
Lehigh Valley	48	48¼	100
Allegheny Valley 7-30's	104	105	
Central Transportation	39¾	40	
P., C. & St. L. m. b.	92¼		

Gold Closed at 107⅞.

MONEY.

NEW YORK, December 13.—Money 4@5 per cent., closing bull at 3 per cent. Prime mercantile paper 5@7 per cent. The Assistant Treasurer disbursed $815,000. Customs receipts $125,000. Clearings $25,000,000. Sterling quiet at 481@483¼.

GOLD.

Gold opened at 107¼ and closed at 107¾, the extremes of the day being 107¾ and 107¼. Carrying rates 2@5 per cent.

STOCKS AND BONDS.

Government bonds firm. Railroad bonds strong, especially for Northwestern issues, State securities quiet. The stock market was generally strong, but without important features. The regular quarterly meeting of Western Union directors was held to-day. The official report for the quarter ending September 30th showed the profits to be $883,770, or $37,177 in excess of the estimates. After paying a dividend for that quarter and providing for everything else there remained a surplus of $101,045. The statement for the current quarter ending with the close of the year (net profits partially estimated) was also presented. It shows that after paying a dividend of 1½ per cent. and providing for other obligations of the company there will remain a surplus of $320,595. Transactions to-day 70,000 shares, of which 3,000 were Pacific Mail, 4,000 Western Union, 3,000 Rock Island, 6,000 St. Paul, 10,000 Erie, 28,000 Lake Shore, 3,000 Michigan Central, 2,500 Delaware, Lackawanna and Western, and 4,000 New Jersey Central. The following were the closing quotations:

STOCKS.

West. Union Tel.	72¾	Rock Island	98¾
Quicksilver	23⅜	St. Paul	57¼
Do. preferred	18	Do. preferred	82
Pacific Mail	24	Toledo & Wabash	16¾
Mariposa	9¾	Do. preferred	35
Do. preferred	17½	Ft. Wayne	101¾
Adams Express	103	Terre Haute	5¾
Wells-Fargo Exp.	89	Do. preferred	15
American Ex.	55	Chicago & Alton	98¾
United States Ex.	50	Ohio & Mississippi	5¾
New York Central	105	Del. & Hudson	71¾
Erie	9¼	Atlantic & P. Tel.	16
Harlem	138	Missouri Pacific	3¾
Do. preferred	135	Atlantic & P. pref.	7
Michigan Central	92	Indiana Central	24
Panama	132	Bur. & Quincy	113¾
Lake Shore	57¾	Hannibal & St. Jo.	13¾
Illinois Central	97	Union Pac. stock	59¾
Cleve. and Pitts.	90	Union Pac. land grants	59¾
Northwestern	35	Union Pac. bonds	105¼
Do. preferred	58¾	Do. land grants	98¾
Chi. C. & I.	26	Do. S. F. bonds	90¼
N. J. Central	34½		

GOVERNMENTS.

U. S. coupons, 1881	110¼	New 5's	110½
5-20's, 1865	108¾	New 4½'s	108
5-20's, 1865, new	112	10-40's, registered	112¾
5-20's, 1867	114½	10-40's, Parsons	103¾
5-20's, 1868	116¾	Currency 6's	121

STATE BONDS.

Tennessee, old	43	Virginia, old	29
Tennessee, new	42	Missouri 6's	106¾
Virginia, new	29		

LONDON, December 13, 5 P. M.—The

THE MAD DEMOCRACY

Another of Their Plots Uncovered.

Its Object to Force the Inauguration of Tilden—"Committees of Safety" Organized in Various States—Assessments Levied on Merchants—A Military Organization Among Its Features.

CHICAGO, December 13.—It is asserted positively in Republican political circles that a deep laid plan has been on foot for sometime to secure the forcible inauguration of Tilden, after the House had decided that he was legally elected; that the recent open letter, signed by some prominent Chicago Democrats and addressed to General Sherman, and which got into print by mistake, was an evidence of this plot; that the scheme originated in Ohio, and committees had been appointed in other States, known as Committees of Safety, whose object was to secure a military organization and make a show of force in the North that assessments have been levied on wealthy merchants here and elsewhere to carry out the idea, and that the premature publication of some of the documents and information has frustrated the whole affair. Democrats who notice this charge at all, deny in a like positive manner that it contains a germ of truth.

FOREIGN NEWS.

BY THE ATLANTIC CABLE.

The Eastern Question.

THE CONFERENCE WILL RESULT IN PEACE.

LONDON, December 11.—The correspondent of the *Standard* at Constantinople telegraphs the following: I learn from undoubted authorities that the conference will certainly result in peace, a mode of satisfying all just demands and providing sufficient guarantees having been found.

IMPORTANT POINTS SETTLED BY THE PRELIMINARY CONFERENCE.

LONDON, December 12.—A telegram from Paris announces that the following telegram from Constantinople was received there to-day: At a preliminary meeting of the conference yesterday, under the presidency of General Ignatieff, the plenipotentiaries commenced by discussing questions concerning Servia and Montenegro, and agreed upon the following points which will be officially sanctioned later. The conference admitted the expediency of the rectification of the Montenegrin frontier, to be determined by an international meeting at Ragusa. It would comprise an addition of eleven districts, all named, to Montenegro. The Prince of Montenegro would go to Constantinople to do homage to the Sultan for the new territories conceded him. The conference admitted Servia's claim that fortresses be evacuated by the Turks, prisoners on both sides be returned, and the armistice prolonged until the conclusion of peace. It was further agreed that the Valley of the Drina should be considered as the western frontier of Servia, this rectification implying the definitive cession of Little Zvornik to Servia. These first results confirm the expectation of an understanding between the Powers.

General Ignatieff, in his last interview with the Marquis of Salisbury, is reported to have declared that he would accept the occupation of Bulgaria by a neutral State, such as Belgium or Switzerland.

A FAIR UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN RUSSIA AND ENGLAND—TURKEY WILL ADOPT THE TERMS OF THE CONFERENCE.

LONDON, December 13.—The Vienna correspondent of the *Times* states that confirmation comes from Constantinople that quite an unexpected and marked approach has been effected between the views of Russia and England. This seems due, above all, to the assurances given by General Ignatieff, concerning the aims of the Russian policy. In the face of this, it appears that Turkey felt it necessary to make known its views. Several Vienna papers publish a sort of *communique*, apparently emanating from the Sultan, and legal to be Turkish. Said *communique* declares that the Porte will adhere to the Treaty of Paris, and consider every project of occupation a casus belli.

AUSTRIA DEMANDS SATISFACTION FROM SERVIA.

LONDON, December 13.—A dispatch from Pesth reports that the Austrian representative has been instructed to quit Belgrade if Servia refuses satisfaction for the Servian attempts to assassinate some of the Austrian mail steamer by the Servian police.

ANOTHER ROTTEN INSURANCE COMPANY.

The Security Life Insurance and Annuity Company of New York a Rotten Corporation—A Receiver to be Appointed.

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Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1876.

THE foreign exports from Boston, last week, were the heaviest in its history, amounting in value to $1,563,151.

THE Indianapolis *Journal* says that the Democratic position in regard to Oregon is that one elector could fill the board by electing two, but two couldn't fill the board by electing one. The beauty of the claim is intensified by the fact that the one Democratic elector who attempted to act was defeated by more than eleven hundred votes, while the two Republican electors were elected by that majority.

THE Boston Board of Education has established a medical supervision of the public schools, under municipal direction. This is a good idea, and should not be confined to precautions against small-pox and other contagious diseases. The ventilation of school buildings is one point that requires attention, and the proper regulation of the hours of study, with precautions against over-study, is another.

BEVERLY NASH, one of the Republican electors of South Carolina, was offered $50,000, of which $10,000 was to be paid in cash, to sell his vote for TILDEN. Mr. NASH, who was formerly a slave of the HAMPTON estate, indignantly spurned the proffered bribe, which affords another illustration of the desperate means resorted to by the Democracy to capture the Presidency.

SPEAKER RANDALL, who last year strenuously maintained that the twenty-second joint rule was not in force, has now gone back on himself for the paltry purpose of being in harmony with the party which proposes to usurp the Government by means of trickery or violence. No statesman of either actual or pretended patriotism can afford such a sacrifice of self-respect, consistency or honor—but then RANDALL does not fall within this category.

AN advance in the rate of interest between banks, and an increased demand for loans for business purposes, are among the encouraging features in Eastern financial circles. The Boston *Traveller* of Saturday says the applications for loans made by customers come from business men who are increasing their business or getting in larger stocks, in the belief that bottom prices have been reached, and that better times are at hand. Confidence is returning, the period of depression and doubt has passed, and prudent and sagacious men are preparing to profit by the change.

THE condition of the Massachusetts savings banks, as shown by the official report of the Commissioners, just published, is interesting. The increase in the Boston five cents savings bank during the official year ending November 1, was over $1,250,000. The total increase in all the banks of the State was some ten millions, and the whole amount of deposits and surplus is now in the neighborhood of $250,000,000. This is a very large sum, and its amount shows that there have been no systematic withdrawals of deposits in consequence of the hard times. It is feared, however, that numerous withdrawals will be made this winter.

A STATEMENT is going the rounds of the press to the effect that the House of Representatives, in 1801, when that body was engaged in the JEFFERSON-BURR Presidential contest, "was in session for almost two weeks before the BURR men gave in, and JEFFERSON was chosen." This is an error. The contest began on Wednesday, February 11, and closed on Tuesday, February 17, 1801, lasting almost one week, during which there were thirty-six ballots. The balloting could not begin until the 11th of February, and on the 18th of February JEFFERSON wrote to MADISON, giving an account of the manner in which his [JEFFERSON'S] election had been effected, on the preceding day.

THE Democratic party will be beaten out of sight at the next general election. The proceedings thus far had in Congress, during the present session, at least so far as the House is concerned, show that the Democrats are as venemously partisan as ever they were in their palmiest days. The refusal to allow the Colorado Representative to be sworn in was simply an outrage on decency, and everybody knows that it was done simply to be able to make a point if convenient and necessary against the Colorado electoral vote, and also, if the next House is uncomfortably close, to keep the Colorado Representative out. It was sheer brute force exercised purely for an unscrupulous partisan purpose.

ACCORDING to the latest foreign trade returns of the Bureau of Statistics, embracing all the ports of the United States, there was a balance of nearly twenty millions against us for the fiscal year 1875, and a balance in our favor of $120,213,102 for 1876, or of $79,043,481 exclusive of gold and silver. The gain in July and August this year was $29,442,000 over the returns for the corresponding months in 1875, and in September the gain was no less than $30,280,743. This gain of nearly fifty millions in three months, or at the rate of two hundred millions a year, is unprecedented in our commercial history, and is the main cause of our large importations of gold from Europe.

IN 1860 the BELL and EVERETT electoral ticket was elected in Virginia; but the names of two of these electors, WALTER PRESTON and WALLER STAPLES, were misspelled in some of the counties, and the Democratic Secretary of State, by throwing out these misspelled votes, declared two of the BRECKINRIDGE electors elected. Whereupon the two BRECKINRIDGE electors declined on a point of honor to act in that capacity, as it would be falsifying the will of the people as intended to be expressed at the ballot-box. The remaining electors then filled the vacancies by appointing Messrs. STAPLES and PRESTON and cast the full vote of the State for BELL. The Southern sense of honor has very materially changed since then. In order to get a vote for TILDEN, now, it would descend not merely to buying but to stealing one, wherever and whenever the chance offered.

RUSSIA is represented as hurrying matters in hot haste, so as to be ready to take the field early. This may possibly mean that that Power intends to disregard the terms of the armistice, and begin war next month. The armistice extends to February, 1877, with the right of renewal to the middle of March; and to denounce it at the close of January would be a dishonorable proceeding. It is possible that the armistice was meant to be nothing but a trap, from the beginning, and that having gained from it all that she can hope to gain, Russia will denounce it a month in advance, under the pretense that the Turks had previously disregarded the terms of it. That Russia means work is pretty evident from the fact that she has prepared eighty-four military hospitals, in which there are accommodations for nearly 60,000 men.

AN unusually important insurance decision has just been rendered by the United States Circuit Court of Indiana, the effect of which, if sustained, will be to deprive of force many State laws regulating the business of foreign insurance companies. The law of Indiana forbids foreign companies having agencies and doing business in that State, except after compliance with certain provisions thereof; but the defendant company, an Illinois corporation, issued a large number of policies in Indiana without compliance therewith. The company becoming insolvent, the assignee sought to enforce payment of the premium notes, which was resisted on the ground that the company was forbidden by Indiana law from doing business in that State. But the court held that inasmuch as the agent in Indiana merely received the application for insurance and forwarded it to Freeport, Ill., at which place the company forwarded the policy direct to the applicant, the contract was an Illinois contract, and consequently that Indiana laws could not apply to it. As to its enforcement in Indiana, the court held that the contract stood on the same ground as any other, valid by the law of the place where it was made, and was enforcible by the comity of the States. Some five or six hundred suits depend upon the final determination of this case, which has been appealed to the Supreme Court of the United States.

RESPECTING THE POPULAR WILL.

The object of elections is to ascertain the will of the people; and the will of the people once ascertained, no mere technicalities or irregularities should be permitted to operate to the defeat of that will. This is a plain proposition, and no one who respects the popular voice will doubt or question its truth.

Let us apply this proposition, then, to the Oregon election as a test. The people of Oregon, acting upon their own judgment, without bias, restraint or dictation from any quarter, decided by a majority of over eleven hundred in favor of HAYES and WHEELER as their choice of candidates for the Presidency and Vice Presidency. This being their verdict, their right to have the three electoral votes of that State cast for the candidates whom they preferred is unquestioned and unquestionable. No technicality nor irregularity can serve as an excuse for depriving them of that right. There will is supreme in the premises, and any attempt to set it aside is a fraud upon its face.

The technicality here set up is, that one of the electors chosen by the people of Oregon was a postmaster, and therefore ineligible, the Constitution of the United States providing that no person holding an office of profit or trust under the Government shall be appointed an elector. This disqualifies such a person from acting as elector, but it does not deprive the people of Oregon of their right to cast their three electoral votes as they choose. The Constitution does not say that, if an ineligible person is chosen an elector, the majority of the people shall be deprived of their rights. It, in fact, provides no penalty for an infraction of that prohibition. It declares who shall be ineligible, but leaves the rights of the people intact. The people of Oregon voted for HAYES and WHEELER; and the vote of Oregon is entitled to stand for those candidates, notwithstanding the fact that one of the electors chosen was ineligible. The Governor of Oregon has no right to declare that one of the minority electors was chosen, when he knows that he was not; and he was guilty of a deliberate fraud, and defiance of the public will in issuing a certificate of election to an individual who was defeated by the people.

The pretext set up that the votes cast for an ineligible candidate are void, and that the next highest candidate is therefore elected, is neither good law nor good sense. The people of Oregon voted in good faith for three electors, and they decided by their votes that the minority candidates for electors should *not* be elected. To declare that a man is elected whom the people have defeated is to set the public will at naught, and to usurp an authority no Governor has ever yet possessed. As far back as 1809 it was decided by the Kentucky Legislature, upon a report made to that body by HENRY CLAY, that votes cast for an ineligible candidate are not void, and that the next highest candidate is *not* entitled to the return. This has always been the law as interpreted by the courts in Pennsylvania, as was shown in the MCLAUGHLIN and CLULEY case; the United States Senate settled the same principle in the case of POOL, claiming an election from North Carolina as United States Senator, and the British Parliament and courts have also recognized and enforced the same view. All of these decisions, and there are many others of similar tenor, are on the side of the people, and of the right of the majority to have their will respected, as is proper under a republican form of government, and any other decision would sacrifice the great right of popular suffrage and minority rule to the supremacy of technicalities and irregularities.

The Democrats themselves, who claim the right to profit by this technicality in Oregon, decided precisely the other way in Missouri. One of the TILDEN electors in that State was as clearly ineligible as was the HAYES elector in Oregon; yet the electoral college, without any authority given by statute, and acting solely upon their right to carry out the will of the people of the State, chose another person to fill the vacancy, and so cast the entire vote of the State for TILDEN. This was the proper and the only right thing to do; but if it was proper and right in Missouri it was also proper and right in Oregon; and the Democracy cannot be permitted to *steal* an elector in Oregon by a process the validity of which they denied in Missouri.

But such was the case also in New Jersey. Two of the Democratic electors were United States Commissioners to take acknowledgment of deeds, etc., and as such they were ineligible, occupying the same position as the postmaster in Oregon. Did the Governor of New Jersey commission, thereupon, the highest HAYES electors to take the places of these two ineligible men? Certainly not. The two ineligible electors met with the other electors and voted with them in spite of their ineligibility. In this way the will of the people of New Jersey was carried out.

The great point, in all these cases, is to ascertain and respect, and carry out the popular will. That is the foundation rock upon which the Government rests, and whenever we get off from it we get upon the shifting sands that will soon bring the whole edifice to ruin.

But what, it will be asked, becomes of the popular will in South Carolina, Florida and Louisiana? We answer, that there are legal boards in each of these States, appointed solely with a view to ascertain the popular will in all elections, and these boards, acting upon their legal authority, have declared the HAYES electors chosen in each. In reaching this conclusion they have exercised their power, as well as their right, to reject certain returns made to them—not for informality, nor for technicalities, nor for irregularities, but—for frauds of such a barefaced nature as left them no alternative but to reject them. The Supreme Court of Pennsylvania has settled the legal principle that nothing short of fraud will vitiate a return. As long as there is any method of ascertaining the real vote of the people in any district, the return may be amended, but not rejected; but when fraud and rascality have rendered it impossible to get at the legal vote of a district, there is no other recourse but that of absolute rejection. The returning boards in these three States, acting upon this principle, have rejected and thrown out returns that were proved to have been fraudulent, and in doing so they have but performed a plain and imperative duty.

There can be no question—there *is* no question, that the majority of the voters in the three States named, are Republicans. Left free to act for themselves they would, beyond a doubt, have chosen the HAYES electors. The returning boards, therefore, have but learned and declared the popular will; and the great object of a Presidential election has therefore been honestly carried out in ascertaining and declaring the will of the sovereign people.

THE "PINK OF PROPRIETY" PARTY.

The Democratic party has never achieved any very high distinction for its fairness in dealing with its opponents, for its strict application of the rules of law, or for the observance of the common proprieties of life. When it suited its leaders to set these regulations aside, they have done so boldly and unhesitatingly. Sometimes, however, the party, from necessity, is put on its "good behavior," and then it can out-clamor the most conservative pleader for "law, order and decency"—as understood and interpreted by Democratic leaders. Immediately following the election, this party was forced to assume a virtue that it did not possess. After having almost grasped the Presidency, through a conspiracy as deep and damnable as ever disgraced any faction or party in any age, it suddenly put on all the airs of injured innocence and raised the piteous cry of fraud. The ordinary modes of cheating were ignored, in the South at least, and the modern plan of "bulldozing," with all its attendant horrors, was fully organized and deliberately carried out. A large proportion of the Republican voters of some half a dozen States were either totally disfranchised, or compelled through fear of violence, to vote against their consciences. Through the potent influence of the rifle, the pistol and the bullwhip, the "votes actually cast" were sufficient to have carried TILDEN through; but the wholesome restraints put upon those who attempted to carry the election in Louisiana, South Carolina and Florida, by fraud, intimidation and violence, barely sufficed to defeat the conspiracy against the rights and interests of the people, and through the success of which the Government was to be handed over to the tender mercies of those who so lately sought to destroy it. Had there been means for exposing and punishing the outrages upon Republicans in Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia and North Carolina, similar to those existing in Louisiana, those States, too, would undoubtedly have been returned for HAYES and WHEELER. Each one of them, if free to vote to-day, would give a large majority for the President elect. With such monstrous violations, not only of the right of suffrage, but of the right of the citizen to be secure in his person, what else could the Democratic party do but raise a false cry of some kind or other? It first assumed the broad ground that all the honesty and virtue were on its side, in this contest—that TILDEN had been fairly elected, and that the Republican party, backed by the Administration, had conspired to cheat him out of his office. It howled against the employment of troops in the South, denouncing the act as a flagrant violation of the Constitution and the laws, although some of its leading men have since admitted that wherever the soldiers were stationed, at the time of the election, the Democratic gains were the largest, thus controverting their own argument that the troops were used to intimidate voters. It inveighed against the returning boards of the three States in which they legally exist, and while frantically appealing for an honest count, never ceased to predict that HAYES would be "counted in." The courts have been appealed to, as they have never before been by that party, but it was only because it hoped to use them as a means of succor from its terrible strait. Janus-faced, it cried for order, peace and moderation, from its mouth North; while from its mouth South it breathed forth threatenings and slaughter. While its professions of "honesty and reform" were filling the public ear, it was consummating the deepest wrongs and the most terrible outrages against a helpless race; and while its entreaties for fair play are still heard amid the general din, it is engaged in perpetrating the foulest acts of which a party can be guilty. To gain its ends under color of law, it does not scruple to corrupt the judiciary, to purchase legislators, to deny admission to the House of Representatives of legally elected members, and, as a last expedient to endeavor to cheat HAYES out of his election and deprive the country of a constitutionally chosen President by unjustly withholding a certificate due to one of his electors. A more despicable act than that of Governor GROVER, of Oregon, cannot be imagined, and will consign his name to everlasting infamy. He not only refuses to discharge a plain executive duty—and a duty which, even if not free from technical objection, has both honesty and equity in its favor—but he boldly usurps the powers of the judiciary; declares the man who was fairly elected ineligible, and attempts to put in his place a partisan who was defeated, but who is burning to cast his vote for TILDEN, HENDRICKS and "reform." Of all the perversions of law and decency, this is one of the most monstrous; but happily, like others of its kind, it will signally fail to accomplish the end in view. Were it not for the gravity of the situation, the appeals of this party for the restraints of law and order would be supremely ridiculous. It is notoriously the party of lawlessness—of disorder, of oppression, of riot and of bloodshed. We would welcome the change in tone as a good omen, did we not know that it is utterly hypocritical and deceptious. Whatever guise the Democratic party may assume, let it not set itself up as the "pink of propriety" party. "Take any shape but that."

OVERLOADING THE COURTS.

This paper has, on various occasions heretofore, protested against the tendency to throw every nice exercise of power and the settlement of every disputed political question into the hands of the courts; and we are glad to find that the members of the Supreme Court at Washington have spoken right out in meeting and entered their protest against any attempt to saddle upon them the settlement of disputed questions in counting the electoral vote. The proposition of Messrs. SCHURZ and HENDERSON to impose upon the judges of that court the duty of counting the electoral vote has alarmed them, and very properly; and their protest against such a measure not only has great force, but comes at the right time.

The proper function of every court is simply to decide judicial questions, and to interpret the laws; and the moment any court is loaded with other functions it has departed from the strict line which separates it from the other co-ordinate branches of government. Our safety, as a nation, depends upon maintaining the simple judicial character of the Supreme Court. To load it with political powers and saddle it with the settlement of political questions is to take it out of its proper element and destroy its impartiality and usefulness.

In this State, of late, there has been a strong inclination to put the appointing power in the hands of the courts, and to load them down with non-judicial or extra-judicial powers. The trial of contested election cases has been put into their hands, and they have been turned into returning boards, also, for canvassing and declaring election results. We do not say that these functions are not safe in their hands, because we known that they *are* perfectly safe, so far as the courts are at present constituted; but we do say that exercising the appointing power and canvassing election returns are not judicial acts, and that courts should be confined exclusively to the discharge of judicial duties.

To throw the canvassing of the electoral vote into the hands of the Supreme Court would be to sink that body to the level of a mere political engine. The framers of the Constitution were very careful to guard against any such possibility in defining its duties and powers and confining its jurisdiction to cases in law or equity arising under the Constitution. It has original jurisdiction only in "cases affecting ambassadors, other public ministers and consuls, and those in which a State shall be party." In everything else it can only hear appeals from inferior courts. There let its powers rest. Political questions do not belong to the courts, and when they are taken there to be settled, the courts will lose their independence as well as their impartiality.

SOLON SHINGLE, ESQ.

The people's "lawyer," SOLON SHINGLE, *alias* JERRY BLACK, is in the field with another "opinion." The indignation of JEREMIAH over the action of the State canvassing boards of the "doubtful" States, is only equalled by that of SOLON SHINGLE, his distinguished contemporary, over the "outrage" of feloniously stealing and carrrying away that renowned "barrel of sass." The lamentations of JEREMIAH are quite as lugubrious as those officially uttered by him, when, as Attorney General of BUCHANAN'S Cabinet, he solemnly decided that a "State" could not, by any possibility, be coerced by the National Government. Nevertheless, they were successfully coerced, subdued and restored to their rightful position in the galaxy of the Union; and to-day, their stars, dimmed somewhat, it is true, in their luster, by passing clouds of treason and revolt, still glisten brightly upon the azure field of the American flag. Just now, as we perceive, Hon. J. S. B. is on another tack, and is disposed to view matters through different spectacles. "States" *may* be coerced in the event of a close Presidential contest, if not by the Executive, by a Democratic, or, rather, "Confederate" House of Representatives. Whatever the State laws may be, and notwithstanding the express provision in the organic law of the nation that Presidential electors *shall be chosen* in such manner as *"the Legislatures thereof may direct,"* it is entirely competent, according to Mr. BUCHANAN'S ex-Attorney General, for Congress to review their action and to decide the question to suit themselves. Ah! We were partially in error. The Senate—the United States Senate—according to this Democratic Solon, "has nothing to do with the Presidential election—has no duty to perform about it." Neither has the Executive, of course. The whole business, therefore, according to "Judge" BLACK, rests alone with the Democratic House to determine! The State boards, the President of the United States, the people thereof, have nothing to do with the matter—except to stand passively by and let the result be ascertained and determined by the Lower House. Well, we have not leisure, today, to discuss the technical points of this last "opinion" of the Somerset country advocate. We may do so at an early day, if deemed worth while. Evidently the mantle of KENT or STORY has not fallen upon this great Democratic luminary of the legal profession, whose deliberate judgment, as published, savors more of the one-sided view of the paid advocate, than of the impartial survey of an honest and disinterested judge. It is more than possible that the ermine which erst graced the shoulders of a BARNARD and a CORDOZA, in the Empire State, awaits Mr. BUCHANAN'S Attorney General. Having achieved an immortality of infamy by his official opinion that a rebellion could not be subdued, or a State coerced, by the United States Government, it is eminently fitting that he should now appear as the attorney of SAMUEL J. TILDEN and claim that he is the President elect of the country.

IN view of the imminent probability that Europe may soon be engaged in a general war, a description of one branch of the national forces that will be called to play a prominent part in the threatened conflict, should it break out, may not prove uninteresting to our readers. The navies of Europe have assumed of late years dimensions which, as regards the numbers of the vessels and the expense attending them, throw into the shade everything that used previously to be dreamt of in what were, even in former times, called the "bloated armaments" of the Great Powers. The development of armor-plated vessels and of the cannon fabricated to pierce them, has become astounding, and has gone on *parí passu* in shipbuilding and gunnery. From 1859 to 1869, armor-plating was gradually increased in thickness by some four and a half inches, and from the latter date to the present time by about five inches more. A plating of some fourteen inches was formerly thought sufficient to resist the shot of a thirty ton gun; now the new Krupp cannon of fifty-seven tons would pierce easily, at 2,000 yards, such plating, as for instance, that of the British Inflexible, two feet thick; and it seems impossible to say as yet what would be required to protect ships against the eighty ton gun which has been tried in England; or the hundred ton gun now being experimented with at La Spezzia, in Italy, or the one hundred and fifty ton gun which is already spoken of in Prussia. The coming International Exposition at Paris, will also, undoubtedly, initiate us further, theoretically, into some of these mysteries, by the results of experiments, unless more practical demonstrations of these enormous material forces should unfortunately ensue in the interim. The proportions in which they are wielded by the different powers of Europe, according to the latest official returns, appears to be something like the following: It is proposed to bring the French fleet up to sixteen armor-plated first rates; twelve second rates, and twenty armor-clad coast-guard vessels of the first and second class. The English fleet consists actually of thirty-one armor plated vessels of first class size, some of which, however, are of the early type of the class, and would be found incapable of resisting the guns of later construction. There are besides in the same fleet eleven second rates, with four coast guards or floating batteries, such as the Devastation, and three others of medium rank. The Russian fleet, so far as known—for it is difficult to ascertain exactly what has been going on in the remoter parts of the Black sea—numbers only three iron clad first rates, with ten coast guards, of which two are of the new circular form, thirteen small monitors and two or three other miscellaneous vessels. The Turkish fleet is much stronger than is generally supposed, consisting of seventeen ironclads, of which seven are first rate, fully armed with powerful guns. These are the best, and almost the only fruits, for Turkey, of her late loans. The German fleet numbers in all about twenty-three ships, of which seven are first rate ironclads, quite new and very powerful, the rest frigates, corvettes, monitors, etc. The Austrian fleet consists of six first rates, armor-plated, with four more building, and two second rates. The Italian fleet is composed of eleven vessels in all, of which six are of the first class and four of the second, armor-plated, with two more giants, the Dandalo and Duilio, in construction at Castellamare. The cost of these vessels is, of course, almost fabulous. A French calculation, based upon the tonnage, estimates the armor-plated fleets of Europe alone to have cost upwards of one thousand millions of francs. Imagine these huge sea-monsters really coming into conflict, and hurling their ponderous projectiles amid the narrow waters of the Dardanelles, the Bosphorus or the Black sea.

THE New York *Times* cites the case of ABBOTT, as illustrating the principle involved in the case of the ineligible elector in Oregon. ABBOTT and VANCE were candidates for the Senate from North Carolina; VANCE was ineligible by reason of political disabilities under the Constitution. A large majority of the Legislature voted for VANCE, ABBOTT receiving the next highest vote. He claimed that VANCE being ineligible he was elected by the Legislature by reason of having the next highest vote. The resolution of the Committee on Privileges and Elections was, in effect, that ABBOTT, not having received a majority of the votes cast, was not entitled to a seat as a Senator. The yea and nay vote in the Senate was taken on substituting for this resolution the affirmative statement that ABBOTT was entitled to the seat. Mr. THURMAN being a member of the committee, made a very long speech, reviewing all the questions involved. The vote resulted in ten for ABOTT and forty-two against his claim to the seat, twenty-one Senators being absent. Among the ten votes for seating ABBOTT are the names of six so-called carpet-baggers, and only three of the ten are now members of the Senate. Except these three every Republican now in the Senate voted against ABBOTT'S right to the seat. Among the Democrats who also voted in the negative are BAYARD, DAVIS, of West Virginia, GOLDTHWAITE, JOHNSTON, KELLY, STEVENSON and THURMAN, who are now members of the Senate. No Democrat voted in favor of ABBOTT. Mr. THURMAN'S speech was the exposition of the Democratic view and in many respects stated the views entertained by the majority of the Republicans. As to the law governing the case, THURMAN spoke in the most positive terms, alluding to the decisions in these words:

Now, Mr. President, I desire to say a few words upon the adjudicated cases. I affirm with the utmost positiveness that there is not a judicial decision of the highest court in any State of this Union, except the Indiana decision, that gives the slightest countenance to this claim of a minority man being elected, while it has been decided again and again, as I shall show, notwithstanding the criticism of my friend from Wisconsin, that the minority man is not elected, although the majority man may be under disqualifications. The only two decisions in America in favor of the minority man are the Indiana decisions and the decision of an inferior court, a Common Pleas Court of the city of Philadelphia, which has been referred to, and that pushes the doctrine to its necessary logical consequence.

Senator KELLY, of Oregon, voted to sustain the principles laid down by his fellow Democrat, THURMAN, and yet he traveled six hundred miles to assist and encourage the recreant Governor GROVER in his scheme to cheat the people out of their choice for President, by a wanton and flagrant violation of the law as laid down by the highest Democratic authority in the case above cited.

THE legal principles which govern the American nation in determining and respecting the will of the people as expressed through the ballot box, are referred to in another article on this page. The attempt made to deprive the people of the United States of a legally chosen President, by overriding the clearly expressed will of a majority of the voters of the State of Oregon, has its parallel in English history. Those Democratic leaders who have recently quoted so liberally from English law and English precedents, as tending to help them in their unscrupulous efforts to deprive the honest voters of the country of their choice for President, ought to feel ashamed of themselves, in the light of the WILKES case, decided by the British Parliament three hundred years ago. The case may be thus stated: JOHN WILKES, a member of Parliament from Aylesbury, for a speech which the King made, denounced him as a liar. For this offense Parliament expelled WILKES, and he was subsequently elected by the people on several different elections, and just as often expelled by Parliament, until one Colonel LUTTRELL appeared as an opponent and received three hundred votes, being a very small minority. Parliament seated LUTTRELL on the ground that the votes for WILKES were void because of his ineligibility. This action of Parliament created great indignation throughout the Kingdom, the people denouncing it as an act of usurpation. The contest then became not one of men, but a contest for the preservation of the rights of the people. Twenty years after, when partisan strife had abated, when the excitement about WILKES and his conduct had died away, and the British Parliament regained its senses, the resolution expelling WILKES and seating LUTTRELL was expunged from the Journal of Parliament, for the "reason that it was subversive of the rights of the electors of the Kingdom." Fair minded Democrats, even now, are disgusted at the course of TILDEN'S advisors in regard to the Oregon case; and the party, long before twenty years have elapsed, will regret that it ever committed such a sad blunder.

THE law of Oregon, the State where TILDEN imagines he has stolen a HAYES electoral vote, provides that—

"The votes for electors shall be given, received, returned and canvassed as the same are given, returned and canvassed for members of Congress. *The Secretary of State shall prepare two lists of the names of electors elected*, and affix the seal of the State to the same. Such lists shall be signed by the Governor and Secretary, *and the latter delivered to the college of electors* at the hour of their meeting on the first Wednesday of December."

The Republican electors were shown to have been elected by the canvass of the Secretary of State. They met at noon on the first Wednesday of December. The Governor refused to give any of them certificates of election, on the ground that one of them was ineligible. It was not his duty to judge of the qualifications of the electors at all. On that head the Oregon law reads:

If there should be any vacancy in the office of an elector, occasioned by death, refusal to act, neglect to attend *or otherwise*, the electors present shall immediately proceed to fill, by *viva voce* and plurality of votes, such vacancy in the electoral college.

The Governor not only refused to certify the election of either of the Republican electors, but gave certificates to three others, in doing which he committed a misdemeanor which renders him liable to severe punishment. The Republican electors voted for HAYES and WHEELER, and sent their votes to Washington in regular form, backed by the Secretary's official certification of the State vote for electors. The President of the Senate will recognize them as the vote of the State, and he will not recognize any others. There will be no opportunity for the House to go behind the returns, a result which this little trick was invented to produce, for that body will have nothing to do with it. The President of the Senate will count the votes of the electors who were elected by the people, and HAYES and WHEELER having received a majority of the electoral votes, will be duly declared elected and inaugurated. All the threatenings, fuss and fume of the disappointed Democrats will avail nothing against the facts.

How to provide for the deserving poor, detect imposters and get through the winter as cheaply as possible, is just now the problem that is engaging the earnest attention of county and municipal authorities and benevolent organizations throughout the country. In our own city many families are in destitute circumstances, in numerous cases absolutely without means to drive the wolf from the door, with a long and cheerless winter before them, and starvation staring them in the face. Want has invaded hundreds of households where it was seldom known before. Mechanics and laborers have alike been unable to provide against winter. A host of them have been barely able to get along through the summer and fall, when circumstances were most favorable, and December finds them without means, with their children improperly clothed and inadequately provided with food. There exists, of course, in this community, as in all populous centers, a class of people who make a regular business of gaining their livelihood by imposture, but a system of rigid scrutiny into the condition and habits of those who apply for relief would eventually weed out the undeserving. Meanwhile, want and wretchedness on the part of the really deserving poor are stern realities that are constantly obtruding themselves into notice, and it is to be hoped that those who are in easy and affluent circumstances will bestir themselves in the premises as humanity prompts and the occasion demands. Then, too, there are thousands of men, women and children who can contribute their mites and never feel the loss. This is no time for cast off or partially worn clothing to be hanging on pegs or lying in trunks or wardrobes when human beings are suffering for it. This is a time for action. The various church and religious organizations should also lend a helping hand to aid in keeping the machinery of benevolence in motion.

THE use of opium as a stimulant would seem to be alarmingly on the increase in this country. Some idea of the growing extent of the vice can be formed from the fact that, although 71,839 pounds of opium, worth $304,910, were imported to this country in the year 1859, to such a degree has its consumption and the consequently growing demand for it increased, that in the last three months of the year 1875, 122,281 pounds, worth $549,296, were imported to the United States. Or, to make the matter plainer, the importation of opium to this country in the year 1875 was about 489,124 pounds, involving a total value of over $2,000,000, and exceeding the importation of the same commodity only sixteen years before by 417,285 pounds. In the face of this array of figures, the question naturally arises, how does it happen that, next to China, the citizens of this country consume more of this deadly and pernicious drug than any other nation on the globe? Can our physicians and druggists answer?

IT appears that one of the causes of the present commercial and financial depression throughout the world, is the opening of the Suez Canal, which, as shown by statistics, has diverted from employment some two million sailing tonnage and established steam tonnage, shortened the time for operations in India produce in Europe to the extent of five-sixths, and obviated the necessity of accumulating and carrying large stocks in Europe, thus rendering unnecessary a large and costly amount of the old machinery of an important branch of the world's trade, warehouses, sailing vessels, capital, six months bills and the merchant himself with his large retinue of employees; and causing immense losses, mischief and confusion. All these improvements will of course be a benefit to mankind in the end, after society has accommodated itself to such changes, and the past few years have been that period of transition and readjustment.

SOUTH CAROLINA.

Governor Chamberlain Inaugurated.

The Democratic House Requests General Ruger to Withdraw the Troops.

COLUMBIA, December 7.—The Senate and Republican House passed the bill authorizing any qualified officer to administer the oath of office to the Governor. A few minutes past one the Republican members of the Senate marched to the Republican House, where Chamberlain was inaugurated and sworn in by Probate Judge Boone. He delivered a short inaugural.

The Democratic House appointed a committee to inform the Senate and General Ruger that it was the legal House under the decision of the Supreme Court, and requested the latter to withdraw the troops from the State House.

COLUMBIA, December 7.—Governor Chamberlain to-day took the oath of office as Governor in the State House, before Probate Judge Boone, a joint resolution repealing the law that the oath should be taken before the Chief Justice or an associate justice having been passed previously. The inauguration was over before it was known in the city, and only parties admitted by the authorities witnessed the ceremony. A company of troops were stationed in the lower corridor and constabulary guarded the entrance. Governor Chamberlain delivered his inaugural.

COLUMBIA, December 7.—General Wade Hampton has issued the following card to the public:

The following paragraph appears in the address of D. H. Chamberlain, delivered in the Capitol to-day: "The gentleman who was my opponent for the office in the late election has recently declared, as I am creditably informed, that he holds not only the peace of this city and State, but my life in his hands. I do not doubt the truth of the statement. Neither the public peace nor the life of any man who now opposes the consummation of this policy of fraud and violence is safe from the assaults of those who have enforced that policy." I pronounce this statement infamously false. I, by my renewed exertions, have endeavored to preserve the peace of this State, and I have thus contributed to shield from popular indignation one who has proved himself a disgrace to his rank and a traitor to his trust. His conscience may make him tremble, but neither I nor the men with whom I act countenance the hand of the assassin.

[Signed] WADE HAMPTON.

COLUMBIA, December 8.—The Congressional investigating committee arrived late last night. This morning the committee met and organized, and soon after drove to the State House.

The Republican House and Senate are in session, but have taken no important action.

The committee appointed by the Democratic House yesterday is now in the discharge of its mission, which is to call upon the officer commanding the United States troops, inform him that the House is legally constituted, ask the withdrawl of the troops from that building and, if refused, to demand by what authority the troops are retained there. The Democrats have also instructed the Judiciary Committee to employ counsel and proceed against D. H. Chamberlain for treasonable acts in usurping the government of the State; also, directing the committee to ascertain and report what counties are not represented in the House.

COLUMBIA, December 8.—Judge Carpenter, of the Third Judicial Circuit Court, this evening issued a temporary injunction, on complaint of taxpayers, enjoining the two banks in this city which are State depositories of public funds from paying out any moneys on checks signed by F. L. Cardozo, claiming to act as Public Treasurer, pending the Republican Treasurer, acting under Chamberlain. It is claimed by the plaintiffs that his term of office under the Constitution expired on the 3d of December, and his successor has not been yet qualified. If the injunction is sustained the Republican government will be left without funds.

The Congressional Committee have put clerks to work to obtain a copy of the returns of the election, as sworn to by the managers of precincts.

COLUMBIA, December 9.—The following has been received by the committee of the Democratic House:

COLUMBIA, S. C., December 8, 1876.

To Hon. Z. F. A. Connor and others:

GENTLEMAN OF THE COMMITTEE: I have the honor to say in reply to your inquiries upon the resolution of which you handed me a copy yesterday, that the United States troops in the State House were placed there by my order for the purpose of executing such orders as might be given; and in this connection I would say, with reference to inquiries numbered six and seven, that if your body should appear at the Hall of the House of Representatives, and should be refused admission by those having charge of the doors, and such persons should apply to the officers in command of the troops at the State House for assistance necessary to prevent your entering, the present orders to the officers would require them to render such assistance. I am, gentlemen, your obedient servant,

THOMAS H. RUGER,
Colonel and Brevet Brigadier General, Department of the South.

SOUTH CAROLINA LYNCHING.

Crooked Stories, from Rebel Sources, About the Affair.

COLUMBIA, S. C., December 10.—It is reported here to-night that ten negroes who murdered a white man named Allen, and wounded another named Baker, at Loundesville, Abbeyville county, and who were discovered to be engaged in a plot to murder the whites, were taken from the sheriff's posse and lynched by Georgians. Thirteen negroes were in the party. The warrants issued by a trial justice, and owing to threats of lynching, were sent under strong guard to jail at Anderson, the adjoining county, but on the journey it is supposed that while *en route* they were seized by Georgians, who came across the Savannah river and summarily dealt with them. No details; excitement great.

CHARLESTON, December 11.—Sixteen negroes were arrested in Abbeville county, charged with the murder of two white men, whom they ambushed and shot near Loundesville on Monday. Six of the negroes made a confession, implicating their fellow prisoners and divulging a plot for the murder of the white men of the village and the capture of the women. Twenty of them were in the conspiracy. Of the sixteen arrested, thirteen were started from Loundesville to Anderson, the intention being to send them from Anderson by railroad. This roundabout course was adopted to avoid lynching by men said to be on the direct road from Loundesville to Abbeville. The prisoners reached Anderson on Saturday under a strong guard, but up to last evening have not been heard from. It is rumored they have been intercepted and lynched by a band of Georgia, but no confirmation of the report has reached Charleston. Two of the prisoners had been hurt (?) when captured, and the party may have stopped on the road to ease the wounded, especially as the weather has been so cold.

COLUMBIA, S. C., December 11.—Positive information has been received here that the Loundesville murderers were not lynched, as reported. The prisoners were taken from Loundesville to Anderson on Friday night, and remained there in this city which are State depositories of public funds from paying out any moneys on checks signed by F. L. Cardozo, claiming to act as Public Treasurer, pending the Republican Treasurer, acting under Chamberlain. It is claimed by the plaintiffs that his term of office under the Constitution expired on the 3d of December, and his successor has not been yet qualified. If the injunction is sustained the Republican government will be left without funds.

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